THE TIMES

LAW TIMES Pages 29,31

No 64,187 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1991 40p

Silcott cleared of PC Blakelock's murder in 1985 riots because of fabricated police evidence

Baker pressed over reform of appeal rules

BY PAUL WILKINSON

LORD SCARMAN today adds his voice to renewed pressure on Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to reform police evidence rules and introduce a new appeals procedure after the Court of Appeal yesterday cleared Winston Silcott, one of three men jailed for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm riots.

The judges accepted evidence that the police officer leading the enquiry and his assistant had fabricated evidence. The court will today continue to hear evidence in the appeals of the other two men. Silcott will remain in jail because he is serving a life sentence for another murder.

Today in *The Times*, Lord Scarman, the retired law lord, urges the scrapping of the home secretary's power to refer cases to the appeal court, and calls for a new review body with lay members empowered to quash a conviction. Lord Scarman's views and other demands for tighter control of confession evidence will be considered by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, set up by Mr Baker to recommend reforms.



Winston Silcott: now cleared of PC's murder

PC Blakelock, aged 40, was hacked to death by a mob on the north London council estate as he sought to protect firemen dealing with a blaze started by rioters. At his original trial in 1987, Silcott was described as a ringleader and the judge recommended he serve a minimum of 30 years.

The appeal judges and the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday accepted new evidence that notes of an interview with Silcott — the only evidence against him — had been altered by Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin and Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle. Mr Melvin is currently on suspension from Scotland Yard.

The court agreed with Anthony Scrivener, QC, for Silcott, that the new evidence "destroyed" the prosecution's case. New forensic tests of the notes of Mr Melvin's questions and Silcott's answers, written by Mr Dingle, showed that they had been tampered with. Roy Amlot, QC, for the prosecution service, said it accepted the new findings.

The forensic examination used a new technique called electrostatic document analysis, by which pages are treated to disclose the impressions of writing from previous pages. Robert Radley, the forensic document examiner who carried out the tests, listed his findings:

- ☐ Page 6: bore only the impressions of Mr Dingle's signature on pages 4 and 5.
- ☐ Page 5: had only his signature from pages 3 and 4.
- ☐ Page 4: had only Dingle's signature from Page 3.
- ☐ Page 3: bore no impressions at all.
- ☐ Page 2: carried impressions of two pages from a statement taken earlier.
- ☐ Page 1: bore impressions of a fifth page from an interview of which there was now no trace.

Dr Radley said that he believed this all indicated that pages had been removed and replaced at some subsequent point. A Home Office scientist who carried out similar tests for the prosecution reached the same conclusions.

Liberty, formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties, said the Silcott judgment demonstrated "the need for an immediate end to convictions on the basis of uncorroborated confessions". That sentiment was shared by David Palmer, spokesman for the families, who said they would now be campaigning to that end.

Winston Silcott's brother, George, said he hoped the "world concedes that Winston was framed". He added: "We want to see the police officers in charge of his case brought to trial."

Scotland Yard declined to comment as the appeal of two other men, Engin Raghip, aged 24, and Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, was continuing.

The judgment is the latest in a series of blows to the criminal justice system, including the cases of the Guildford Four, the Maguire Seven, the Birmingham Six, and cases linked to the disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

Ivan Lawrence, QC, and Conservative MP said the legal system had righted a wrong. "Since this case, nearly every police station of importance in the United Kingdom has a tape recording facility ... and it is far more unlikely that any police officer will be able to invent or change ... the statement made by an accused person."

Widow's plea, page 3
Pressure for change, page 3
Leading article, page 15
Law Times, page 31



JOHN MANNING

Fighting on: Silcott's parents Mary and Bill outside the court yesterday with brother George, who wants to see police brought to trial

Republics hold back on Gorbachev treaty

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE desperate efforts by President Gorbachev to keep the Soviet Union together in some form suffered a fresh blow yesterday when the chiefs of seven republics conferring under his chairmanship declined to sign a new confederal treaty.

At a meeting near Moscow which had been billed as "initialling" a document creating a new Union of Sovereign States, the leaders agreed merely to refer a draft text to teh republics' parliaments. The stalemate brought a step closer the possibility, already widely feared in the West, that the Soviet Union will enter 1992 with no formal agreement to maintain unitary armed forces, and no federal budget for defence or any other purpose.

Yesterday's meeting was not attended by the Ukraine, seen as crucial to any political arrangement to replace the Soviet Union, or by the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, southern republics that, in the Soviet leader's words, were standing yesterday "on the brink of real war". President Gorbachev described the situation in the Transcaucasus as "extremely explosive" and proposed the creation and maintenance by Soviet troops of a six-mile buffer zone in the two republics to prevent an all-out clash. However, the ability of the Kremlin to enforce such measures is fading by the day as central authority weakens and Azerbaijan, along with several other republics, claims control over Soviet military installations on its soil.

The parliament of Azerbaijan, which was gripped by outrage over last week's alleged shooting-down of a helicopter with senior officials on board, will today consider the imposition of martial law and a massive mobilisation of volunteers to fight the Armenians.

President Gorbachev, who has pledged to resign if his efforts to recreate at least a loose confederation are not successful, said it was now hoped that the new Union would be formally signed into existence in the second half of December. Looking crestfallen and tense, Mr Gorbachev tried to put a brave face on the situation by hailing as an agreement the fact that a single text had been settled on for publication and local debate.

However, it was clear that the seven leaders, who were earlier expected to put their names to the document at the start of their deliberations and then to move quickly to other business, had instead raised far more objections that their host expected.

Tass, reporting from the government villa outside Moscow to which foreign journalists were initially invited but then told to stay away, said that the failure to sign reflected a "large number of reservations" voiced by republic chiefs, who included Boris Yeltsin, of Russia.

While acknowledging that discussions had been vigorous and acrimonious, Mr Gorbachev insisted that the republics represented — Russia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan and Kirghizia — realised that they had no choice but to hammer out an agreement.

All participants had realised that "the process cannot be dragged out any longer, that the country and society are in such a state that neither reforms, nor economic agreements, nor anything else will pay off unless we can untie this knot — the form of our state".

The text that will now be referred for debate in the republics maintains the post of Soviet president, to be elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term. President Gorbachev has offered not to stand himself if this will make the treaty more palatable.

To judge from drafts recently leaked to the press, it would provide for the existence of collective and republic armed forces, with central control over strategic defence, including nuclear missiles. The participating republics would refrain from using force or making territorial claims against one another.

Ceasefire mocked, page 11
Poll win attacked, page 11

Thatcher slapped down on Europe

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Conservative high command yesterday rallied behind John Major's European policy as he stood aloof from the storm surrounding Margaret Thatcher's charge that he was "arrogant and wrong".

In a co-ordinated show of backing as Mr Major prepared for his first anniversary as party leader, his closest colleagues slapped down Mrs Thatcher's demand for a referendum on a European single currency.

Mrs Thatcher's first ambassador to Brussels says in *The Times* today that she had always shown a "deep-seated prejudice against the European Community".

Sir Michael Butler, who held the post from 1979 to 1985, says that now Mrs Thatcher is out office she has "gone over the top. She does not even seem to respect Mr Major's responsible effort to act as she once did, to get a settlement at Maastricht in accordance with British interests". He urges the former prime minister "to let her reason reign again".

In the cabinet counter-attack John MacGregor, the Commons leader, said last night that the British people trusted Mr Major to make Britain's voice heard where it

Continued on page 20, col 2

Simply wrong, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15

Markets bewildered

THE Treasury left markets bewildered about its attitude to the weakening pound yesterday, after the Chancellor's spokesman seemed to repudiate an operation to support sterling led by the German Bundesbank. The pound advanced strongly in the morning after the German and French central banks bought about £50 million, (Anatole Kaletsky writes).

In the afternoon, however, the spokesman denied that the Bundesbank had deliberately intervened. The impact was undone and the pound fell back to its opening levels.

Day of confusion, page 21
Comment, page 25

EC out of step on Yugoslavia



Farewell volley: Croat guards firing a salute at a funeral in Zagreb

AS SPORADIC fighting continued around Osijek yesterday, France and Germany were pulling in opposite directions on sending United Nations troops to Yugoslavia and recognising the breakaway republics (Michael Binyon and Dessa Trevisan write).

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, said that Germany would go it alone if necessary in recognising Croatia and Slovenia after the EC deadline for agreement on recognition runs out on December 10. He told German radio that he expected European Community states to do the same.

Herr Genscher and Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said Bonn supported UN efforts to set up a peacekeeping force but emphasised that German troops could not take part. France, however, said yesterday that the UN should send a peacekeeping force as soon as possible.

The latest ceasefire came into effect at 6pm on Sunday, but was broken within half an hour. But, despite shelling on Osijek in eastern Croatia, most of the war zones were reported calm.

Britain remains reluctant to send combat troops. Officials fear that the involvement of foreign units would make the situation "more complicated". Britain would like to

Continued on page 20, col 5



TODAY IN THE TIMES

NOT SO WILDE



Kim Wilde says her family helped her to avoid the excesses for which Freddie Mercury was known **Page 7**

STEP FATHER



Fred Astaire? "He's a wimp," says **Paul Taylor**, king of modern dance **Page 12**

REFASHIONED



The late **Laura Ashley's** traditional image has been given a new twist **Page 13**

BAD PATCH



Colin McRae was knocked out of the lead in the Lombard RAC Rally yesterday **Page 38**

INSIDE

Arts	12,18
Births, marriages, deaths	16,17
Crosswords	17,20
Law Report	32
Letters	15
Obituaries	16
Parliament	6
Sport	34-38
TV & radio	19
Weather	20

48

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Vienna discord hangs over Mozart's head

FROM BRENDA FOWLER IN VIENNA

SCIENTISTS at Vienna's museum of natural history are claiming that a skull reputed to be that of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is authentic. Their conclusion, after a two-year study by two anthropologists, Johann Szilvassy and Herbert Kritscher, is based primarily on their facial reconstruction of the skull. The model bears a remarkable likeness to portraits of the composer, who died in Vienna 200 years ago come December 5.

The study is the latest of a dozen such by palaeontologists, forensic pathologists, historians and geologists over the past century: all have confirmed the skull's authenticity. But the latest claim, coming so close to the bicentenary of Mozart's death, is bound to provoke scepticism.

The finding was immediately criticised by the Salzburg-based International Mozarteum Foundation, a research organisation that owns the world's largest collection of Mozart memorabilia and, ironically, commissioned the natural history museum to undertake this latest study. The Mozarteum, which owns the skull but has always doubted its authenticity, said the reconstruction by the two scientists did not prove beyond doubt that the skull was indeed that of perhaps the world's most loved classical composer.

"They are rejecting the conclusion on emotional grounds." Herr Kritscher said, pointing out that he did not volunteer to do the study. "They came to us," he said. Last summer, at the request of the Mozarteum, yet another panel of international scientists examined the museum's facial reconstruction and determined that the method used could not indisputably establish the authenticity of the skull.

A more basic problem is that the skull was once said to have 17 teeth but now has only 11, raising questions about whether this is the same skull the Mozarteum started out with. Also, the skull's early history is anything but clear cut, because Mozart was buried in an unmarked grave in St Mark's cemetery, Vienna. In 1801 a Viennese gravedigger is said to have salvaged the skull when the burial site was being remade.

Several decades later, the skull fell into the hands of Josef Hyrtl, a famous Austrian anatomist, who never wrote about it but showed it off to his friends. Upon his death the skull vanished until 1901, when it was bequeathed to the International Mozarteum Foundation.

In recent years, the Mozarteum has tried to minimise the skull's importance, regarding it as something of an embarrassment because of its potential relic-like powers. As a result the skull has never been put on public display. Indeed, most Austrians and the hundreds of thousands of tourists who come to Salzburg each year are hardly aware of its existence.

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Prince told his vision for farming is flawed

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales's ideas for "greening" British agriculture were rejected yesterday as scientifically unsound and incompatible with efficient and competitive farming, in a report published by the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

The report was initiated by the prince in an address last March in which he called on the society, of which he was then president, to organise a conference of farmers, consumers and environmentalists to discuss the future of agriculture. In a statement released by Buckingham Palace yesterday, he said he was disappointed that the conference had not yet been organised and hoped that it still could be. He declined to comment on the findings of the 77-page report, *The State of Agriculture in the United Kingdom*.

Its publication came amid claims that he was so displeased with its conclusions that he had refused to attend its launch. A palace spokesman said yesterday that the prince had never intended to be present.

Sir Derek Barber, the president of the society and a former chairman of the Countryside Commission, who headed the study group which drew up the report, said: "We took an independent view of the facts before us. We did, alas, come to slightly different conclusions [from the prince]."

Last March, the prince questioned the "sustainability" of modern intensive farming, called for more organic farming, proposed a compulsory limit on the use of manufactured fertiliser and spoke of the dangers of "two-tier" agriculture in which some farmers continued to produce intensively while others became "fully paid-up park-keepers".

The society says that there is no firm scientific evidence that organic farming is either "sustainable or inherently safe, from the viewpoints of nitrate leaching or the maintenance of soil fertility". The report says that if use of nitrogen fertiliser were banned, as required by organic standards, an additional 22 million acres, exceeding the total agricultural lowland area of Britain, would need to be cultivated to maintain production because of lower yields. If pesticides were banned, farm production would fall by nearly half within three years.

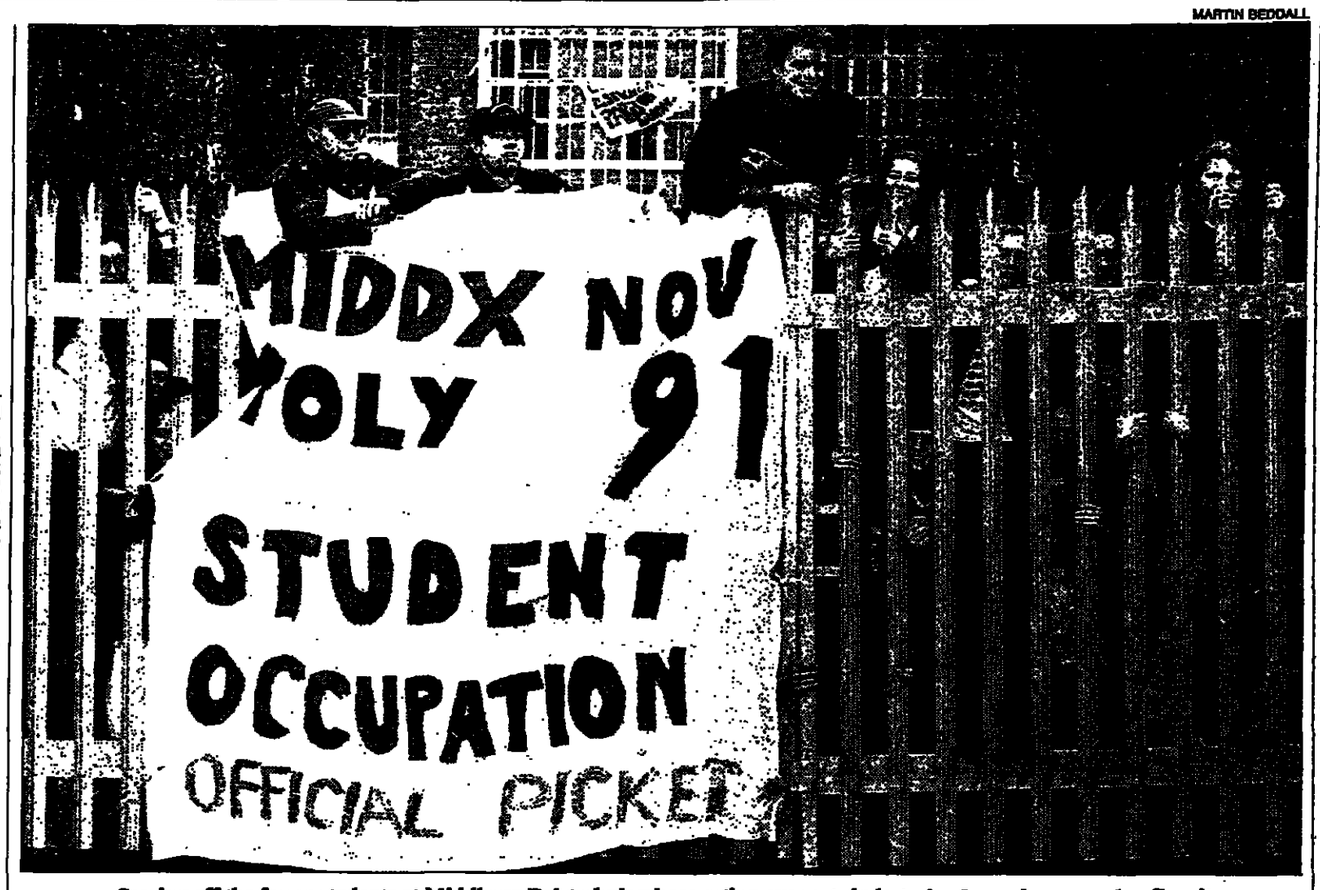
Limiting fertiliser use would make farming uncompetitive and it was estimated that a 30 per cent reduction on a mainly cereal farm would cut wheat yields by 22 per cent and profits by 112 per cent. Nitrate pollution, it says, is worse under organic farming because of reliance on animal manure.

"The image of an Arcadian-style, simple, 'green' agriculture, with a contrived non-intensive output, is incompatible with the aim of maintaining a competitive position in the market-place," the report says. Two-tier agriculture, it suggests, is unavoidable. In East Anglia, food production should take precedence, whereas in the uplands the only case for subsidising farmers is as custodians of the landscape.

The report says that the price subsidies guaranteed to farmers under the European Community's common agricultural policy should be reduced over seven years. It accepts that a further exodus from the land is inevitable and recommends that small, unviable farmers should be helped to leave.

Friends of the Earth accused the society of repeating antediluvian prejudices that many farmers had discarded, and of contemptuously dismissing public concern about modern agriculture. The National Farmers' Union said it was disappointed by the emphasis on price-cutting, but the Country Landowners' Association, which represents larger farmers, welcomed the report.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Coming off the fence: students at Middlesex Polytechnic whose action over cuts in lecturing hours has spread to five sites

Student sit-ins threaten to spark protest wave

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TALKS will take place today to try to end two student occupations, which have threatened to spark a wave of sit-ins. A third sit-in ended at the weekend.

The biggest of the occupations, at Middlesex Polytechnic, had spread to five sites yesterday, and students voted to continue their action into a second week.

The students are due to meet the polytechnic authorities this morning with a list of demands based on the restoration of cuts in lecturing hours. They claim that lectures and seminars have been increasingly overcrowded since the closure of one of the polytechnic's sites, which they want reopened.

At Newcastle Polytechnic, the administration block has been occupied since Friday last week in a dispute over an 11 per cent rent increase. The directorate is meeting student union officers this morning. More than 100 students were ejected by police and bailiffs from a sit-in at Lancaster University on Saturday. Leaders of the protest have threatened to resume the occupation in another part of the campus.

All the protests are rooted in claims of student hardship, which has been the source of increasing bitterness since the withdrawal this summer of welfare benefits. The National Union of Students has been lobbying MPs on the issue, but rejected a proposal from far left groups for a national campaign of occupations.

Stephen Twigg, the NUS president, said: "Students are facing real difficulties, and where there are local reasons for occupations, we are supporting them. But the target where hardship is concerned generally is not the institutions, so we do not consider a campaign of occupations appropriate."

Some students involved in the protests have complained of far left interference in originally apolitical disputes. Feelings ran so high at Middlesex Polytechnic yesterday that a motion was put to remove Militant supporters from the Enfield site, but no action was taken.

John Bownas, one of the organisers, said: "The vast majority of students involved in the occupation are not politically motivated, and a lot are being put off because they think socialist workers have hijacked it."

Leading article, page 15

Academics criticise report on science

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A REPORT out yesterday on the future of Britain's science and technology base, ordered by Margaret Thatcher, was criticised by academics as being thin on substance and lacking foresight.

The study, the first strategic review by the Advisory Committee On Science and Technology, "reads like an exercise in fence-sitting," said Save British Science, which represents researchers. "It conveys with little sense of urgency an all too complacent air in regard to present policies of government." The study will form the basis of advice to John Major.

It suggests that the growth in multinational companies, rising costs of research and the emergence of global issues such as the greenhouse effect mean Britain should focus more on international collaboration. It accepts that spending on science and technology research by industry remains low when compared with other countries.

John Mulvey, executive secretary of SBS and a physicist at Oxford university, said

the report failed to mention the cutting of funds to the University Funding Council, which had left the council unable to ensure laboratories had sufficient staff and equipment. "The fact that charities, rather than government, are now the main source of funds for medical research is accepted without question."

Penny drops for £21,000

A single penny sold for £21,000 yesterday at Spink & Son Ltd, the coin auctioneers, in London. The price was a record for a British "bronze" coin. What made yesterday's example so valuable was its date, 1954. No pennies were issued from 1954 to 1961, due to a surfeit of the coins, and only a small number were minted for tests. According to records at the Royal Mint, all the samples were destroyed.

Mark Rasmussen, Spink's expert, is convinced that the penny was a specimen, and that it is unique. "In years gone by things did somehow come out of the Royal Mint," he said. The penny was first sold by Spink in 1956, the year it was discovered, to C. Wilson Peck, a major copper coinage collector.

Dog extension

Owners of dangerous dogs have been given an extra three months to have their pets tatooed because of a shortage of vets able to carry out the marking. Angela Rumbold, the home office minister, said in a parliamentary written reply. However, she emphasised that all other requirements for a certificate of exemption allowing the owners of dangerous dogs to keep their animals must be complied with by the end of the month.

Price of crime

Alan Davison, aged 35, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, a garage owner who gave three British Rail managers expensive gifts, including cars, holidays and televisions, in return for contracts, was yesterday ordered to forfeit £500,000 at Nottingham crown court. Davison pleaded guilty at Leicester crown court earlier this year to conspiracy to corruptly accept gifts, conspiracy to obtain property by deception and conspiracy to defraud.

Raiders shoot

Armed robbers opened fire on police yesterday as they fled after holding up an Abbey National Building Society branch in Crouch End, north London. Officers took cover as one of the gang pulled a handgun and at least one shot was fired. Two men were arrested but a third escaped in a silver-coloured Citroen BX car. Both the car and the money were later dumped.

Jury retires

The jury has retired to consider its verdicts in the trial of a former head of three Leicestershire children's homes and two residential social workers at Leicester crown court. Frank Beck, aged 49, has denied 27 charges of sexual and physical abuse of children in care and social workers. Peter Jaynes, aged 42, and George Lincoln, aged 39, have denied other charges.

Whitehall woos CBI chief

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Banham, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry, has been invited to head the new commission overseeing the reform of local government in England.

Senior Whitehall sources confirmed that Mr Banham, who set up the Audit Commission in 1983 and was its first chief executive, had been asked to chair the new local government commission. He has told ministers that he believes the job of restructuring the present two tiers of county and district councils into a single tier of all-purpose councils can be done within five years.

Many officials are sceptical that the job can be done in that time but Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is said to have been impressed by his drive and enthusiasm to get on with the job. Mr Banham's appointment, to be formally announced next week, will mark the start of the biggest overhaul of local government for 20 years. Other members of the commission will be named in the new year.

Mr Banham is understood to have accepted the post in principle but has yet to agree to terms of his departure from the CBI. His contract there is due to expire at the end of March next year.

However, the CBI chairman Sir Brian Corby, who is due to step down in May, has asked him to stay on until at least the autumn to provide continuity until his successor Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Unilever, takes over.

Educated at Charterhouse and Queens College, Cambridge, Mr Banham has earned a reputation as a tough but fair reformer. The disclosure that he was in line for the new job came on the day that Michael Portillo, the local government minister, published the terms of reference for the new commission. They commit the commission to examining every aspect of local government in England. It will have powers to redraw boundaries anywhere in the country.

Its remit to create a single tier of local government will, however, be limited to the non-metropolitan areas. London and the former metropolitan counties already have unitary local government.

Mr Portillo said yesterday that the commission would start work in Humberside, where the existing local government boundary commission has already recommended changes and would then move on to Avon.

He also announced that it would have the power to create "non-administrative counties" with lords lieutenant to keep alive historic counties which had their county councils abolished. Among those which might be recreated were Middlesex and the Ridings of Yorkshire, the minister said.

"We are not going to see the emergence of a county council of Middlesex but you could see the emergence of a county of Middlesex so that its boundaries would appear on maps and its signs would appear on roads," he said.

The environment department last night described the report of Mr Banham's impending appointment as "speculative and premature".

Security enquiry at blast jail

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Northern Ireland Office disclosed yesterday that an enquiry into security at Crumlin Road prison will consider introducing "closed visiting", in which prisoners and relatives are separated by a wire grille or speak by telephone.

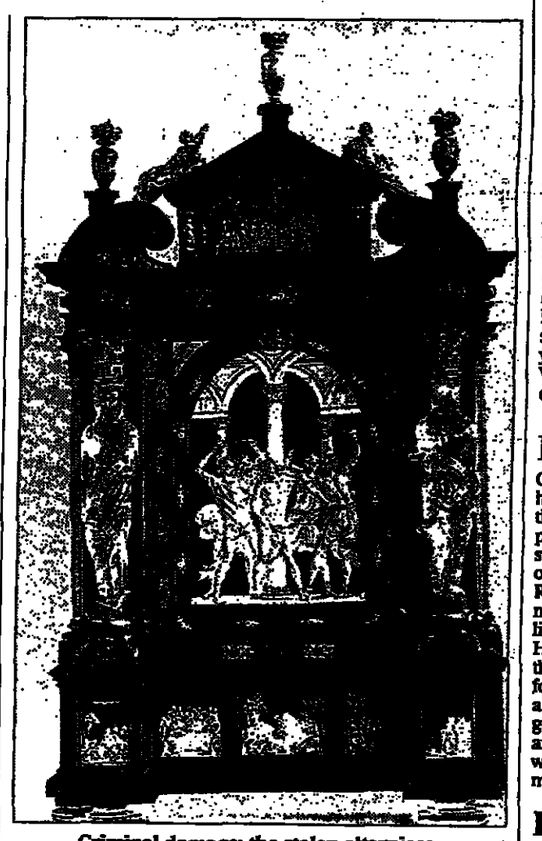
The disclosure came as Lord Belstead, the security minister at Stormont, announced that two enquiries would be set up into the running of the prison, following a bomb explosion on Sunday in which a loyalist prisoner died and eight others were injured. The explosion was part of the campaign for the segregation of loyalist and republican inmates. It was followed by the retaliatory shooting of a Roman Catholic man in south Belfast, who was named as James McCaffrey.

Northern Ireland Office sources said it was likely that the explosive had been smuggled into the jail by prison visitors who had swallowed it. The investigation into the explosion was concentrating on the discovery of six torn condoms.

A spokesman said it was known that the ban on internal searching was the main security weakness at Crumlin Road. "Unless you introduce something like closed visits or the old American-style system with phones, I don't know how you can in any way secure the prison," he said.

A member of the Northern Ireland Prisons Department is to examine security at Crumlin Road and there will also be an independent enquiry into prisoner management at the jail.

Jail break foiled, page 20



Criminal damage: the stolen altarpiece

V & A altarpiece taken

A BAROQUE altarpiece valued at £100,000 was torn apart when thieves were disturbed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London earlier this month (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

Normally reticent about security lapses in order not to encourage more thefts, curators at the museum have made this case an exception in the hope that publicity will prevent further breakup of the altarpiece.

Set with gold, enamel and precious stones, the 16in by 10in work of art had as its central panel a relief of *The Flagellation* by Annabale Fontana, the 16th century Italian artist, and a crucifixion at the top. On display in Room 1a on the afternoon of November 11, its case was forced open by intruders at about 4pm.

"It was forced from both sides," said Paul Williamson, head of sculpture at the museum, who believed the thieves must have been disturbed, because, "as they wrenched it off the wall they knocked the top off, leaving it behind". The gallery is close to the Exhibition Road exit, through which the thieves are thought to have made a quick exit, shortly before the theft was discovered.

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North hid deal 'to protect Waite'

BY JOHN YOUNG AND RAY CLANCY

TERRY Waite was not told about a planned American arms-for-hostages deal when he was negotiating for the release of western hostages because it might have risked his safety, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, key figure in the "Irangate" affair, said last night.

He said that, looking back, he did not feel responsible for Mr Waite's kidnapping and five years incarceration in Lebanon. The colonel is in Britain for a hectic round of interviews and public appearanced to sign copies of his memoirs *Under Fire: An American Story*. He has carefully chosen those deemed capable of carrying out a fair interview and withdrew unexpectedly from a scheduled appearance on BBC Radio 2's *The John Dunn Show* yesterday, blaming *Panorama*'s "poor treatment" of him in a recent interview

However, on the Channel Four chat show *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*, Colonel North was unable to fend off close questions about how much Mr Waite was told about the deal. He denied that Mr Waite had been a stooge used by the American government to arrange meetings with the kidnappers responsible for holding a number of western hostages. Mr Waite was a courageous and compassionate man who cared deeply about the hostages' fate.

Asked if Mr Waite knew anything about the arms deal Colonel North replied: "He certainly didn't know it from me." He said they only discussed "the hostage matter" and Mr Waite had been introduced to him as a man who had been involved in hostage negotiations before in Uganda and Libya and could therefore be helpful in the Middle East.

"I believe that he was helpful. The fact that I did not apprise him of exactly what our government was doing with Iran I think protected him," Colonel North said. "It would have jeapordised him more to have known all of the details of what my government was doing."

There were no indications last night that the colonel would meet Mr Waite. His visit to Oxford last night was the closest he was scheduled to go to RAF Lyneham where Mr Waite is still under observation.

هكذا من الاصل

'If Winston Silcott is innocent, then someone is guilty. I want the truth. I owe it to Keith'

Widow wants killers found

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

KEITH Blakelock's widow, Elizabeth, was close to tears yesterday as she heard that Winston Silcott had been cleared of murdering her husband. "Someone is guilty," she said. "My husband did not stab himself 40 times."

Mrs Blakelock, who moved back to her native North-East with her three sons, now aged 19, 17 and 14, after the killing, said she wanted an enquiry to find her husband's murderers. "I still want the truth to come out," she said. "I owe it to Keith. Anyone on the Broadwater Farm who turned out that night is guilty. They were intent on killing someone. If it had not been Keith, it would have been someone else. What happened on the Broadwater Farm was a night of complete madness.

"If Winston Silcott is innocent, then someone is guilty. If he is freed and he is guilty, that is wrong. If he is innocent and has been in prison, that is also wrong, but I feel that one day justice will be done."

Evidence at the trial in 1987 suggested that Mr Blakelock, aged 40, was attacked by a mob of between 20 and 40 people while on duty with a unit protecting firemen. By the time police recovered him, he had been repeatedly stabbed and attacked with an axe.

After the appeal court's decision yesterday, at least one senior officer speculated at the consequences for police morale of a highly emotive case which involved one of the biggest murder and riot investigations mounted by Scotland Yard. A team of 150 officers was mustered to investigate a riot which began after the death of Cynthia Jarrett during a police search of her home. Although a many people saw or took part in the Blakelock killing, police never had much evidence to work on.

The riot caused less damage than many other disorders in the Eighties, but its ferocity took the police by surprise. There were four robberies, 38 cases of arson, two thefts, nine burglaries and 239 assaults. Although police received 88 emergency calls from the estate during the riot, they found few witnesses to give evidence.

Three teams of police photographers were at work on the night of the riot, but were being cleared within hours of the disorder and police said that they faced difficulties from the local authority and in finding willing witnesses.

By the time they had finished the investigation, 359 people had been arrested and 159 were charged, but only six faced the court for killing Mr Blakelock. Three were juveniles and the cases against them collapsed.

At the end of the trial, police said they believed that they knew the names of a further 17 who had either attacked Mr Blakelock or opened fire on police during the riot. However, they said they could not go to court without fresh evidence.

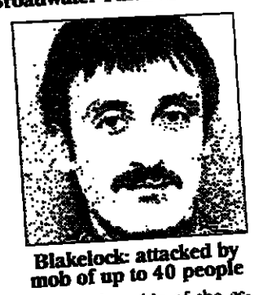
Silcott cleared, page 1
Leading article, page 15



Call for justice: Elizabeth Blakelock yesterday



Night of madness: the Broadwater Farm estate riot in Tottenham in 1985



Blakelock: attacked by mob of up to 40 people

Police accused of subverting law

The clearing of Winston Silcott fuels the debate over the issue of uncorroborated confessions. **Frances Gibb** looks at some of the proposals for change

THE clearing of Winston Silcott yesterday vigorously reinforces the need for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice to scrutinise two specific areas: confession evidence and the right of a suspect to legal advice.

The case, the latest in a catalogue of miscarriages of justice, will also fuel the calls for a new appeals procedure. In *The Times* today, Lord Scarman, the retired law lord, calls for the scrapping of the home secretary's power to refer cases to the Court of Appeal. Instead, he calls for a new court of review, with lay members, which would treat an alleged miscarriage of justice as "an enquiry into a matter of grave public importance", and have powers to quash a conviction.

Silcott was convicted of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm estate riots in north London in 1985 on the basis of a statement he allegedly made with no solicitor present. It was the only evidence against him and he declined to sign it.

Silcott's case was one of the first to test the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which was intended to strengthen rights for suspects in custody. Although the act was not in force at the time of the riots, it was being operated in London, yet police still denied Silcott access to a lawyer. Research at Birmingham University has shown that police regularly subvert the act by using various ploys to delay or discourage accesss to a solicitor. Henry Hodge, Silcott's solicitor, said yesterday that the case had highlighted some appalling features of the present system. "Even with police station interviews being tape-recorded, it is possible for uncorroborated evidence to be put forward which was supposedly given by the suspect in the car."

Views are split on whether there should be a law prohibiting uncorroborated confessions, as wanted by Bar leaders. The Crown Prosecution Service says that insisting on corroboration in all cases would be time-consuming and costly.

The Law Society emphasises the importance of ensuring that a confession is freely given, reliable and is accurately recorded before being admitted in evidence. It calls for filming procedures at the custody officer's desk to ensure compliance with the 1984 act and insists that admissions obtained outside the police station must be recorded and approved by the suspect.

Law Times, page 31

Lovers 'spirited to deaths'

A TEENAGE girl and her 44-year-old lover were "spirited away" to their deaths after she offended her deeply religious family, a court was told yesterday. The couple disappeared in December 1988 and the bodies have not been found.

Leeds crown court was told that Sharifin Bibi, aged 19, and her lover, Hashmut Ali, a father of two, were abducted by her two brothers after she turned her back on an arranged marriage and moved into Hashmut Ali's home in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Norman Jones, QC, for the prosecution, alleged that Mohammed Saleem, aged 32, and Abdul Haq, aged 26, murdered the couple because they brought shame on the family and in particular their father, who was a devout Muslim and taught at a mosque.

Mr Jones said that the brothers killed the couple in a house in Huddersfield which 12 months after the alleged killing "stank of death and dead flesh". He said: "These two people vanished as if they had been spirited from the earth. They left behind a house with the lights on, the door locked on the inside and the phone off the hook. They left their entire collection of personal possessions. The house was almost like the Marie Celeste."

Mr Saleem, of Croydon, south London, and Mr Haq, of Huddersfield, deny murdering the lovers. Mr Jones said that the brothers told police they thought the couple had eloped. Mr Jones said that no remains had been found even though police had flown to the family's former home in Pakistan to interview relatives.

The trial continues today.

Libelled teacher must pay his own costs

A FORMER teacher was libelled by a newspaper when it called him a pervert, a jury at the High Court decided yesterday. But he was awarded no damages, a decision that legal experts said was unprecedented.

Traditionally, when a jury holds that a plaintiff has been libelled, but that it does not think much of the claim, it awards the smallest coin in the realm.

Mr Justice Hutchison rejected an application by Alex Standish that *The People* should pay all costs, unofficially estimated at £200,000. He also ordered that he should pay his own costs, which are normally met by the losing side. Although Mr Standish conducted the 11-day trial in person, he employed leading libel solicitors, which will have cost several thousands of pounds.

Mr Standish, a bachelor, aged 28, of St James's, central London, had helped Esther Rantzen, the founder of the Childline charity, to expose a child abuse ring at Crookham Court School in Thatcham, near Newbury, Berkshire. He claimed that *The People* labelled him a child molester in February 1991, in a story headlined "Esther and the Sex Pervert Teacher", which alleged that he was a sex pervert who was a danger to the boys he taught at the school where he then worked in Orpington, Kent. The newspaper claimed that Miss Rantzen, the police and the education department knew, after their investigation into Crookham Court, that Mr Standish had composed "sickening sketches" of young boys and kept photographs of naked youngsters with instructions on dealing with "naughty" lads.

A central question was the date on which the material was composed. Mr Standish claimed he wrote it between the ages of 16 and 18 to "release" feelings he had bottled up after being sexually abused as a child by a retired teacher. By the time he started teaching he had put those feelings behind him. But the newspaper dated the material as much later, alleging that it outlined fantasies Mr Standish had had while a teacher at Crookham Court in the late 1980s.

The jury, which took more than five hours to reach its 10-2 majority decision, was told that he destroyed the material in 1989 when police started investigating the school. But a colleague had photocopied it previously.

After two *That's Life* television programmes in 1989 alleging systematic abuse of pupils, Crookham Court was closed and its owner and two teachers were jailed for a total of 26 years. Mr Standish resigned and moved to Cannock School in Orpington. He resigned from there in February 1991 when the articles appeared.

The People had argued that its articles were true and fair comment and that Mr Standish's professed concern to stamp out sex abuse at Crookham Court was a dishonest pretence.

After the case, Mr Standish said he had left teaching and had no plans to return. He would be able to pay the costs but refused to reveal the exact sum.

Father is jailed for sex with daughters

BY ADAM FRESCO

A teacher who committed more than 900 sex offences against his three daughters was jailed for eight years yesterday by Newcastle upon Tyne crown court after his wife reported him to the police.

The teacher, aged 50, from Co Durham, had unlawful sex with each of his three daughters when they reached the age of 11, John Evans, for the prosecution, said. The offences occurred with each girl once a week until they reached the ages of 16, 17 and 18.

The man admitted six charges of incest but denied six charges of rape. Mr Justice Waller said: "What you did to your three daughters is almost beyond human comprehension." He ordered that the rape charges should lie on file.

The court was told that once the man's wife came home early and found him having sex with one daughter, then aged 12. She ignored the incident and did nothing when a second daughter complained about her father. She contacted the police after her husband left her, because she said that she was concerned that his new girl friend had a 12-year-old daughter.

Mr Evans said that the man threatened to kill the eldest daughter if she told anyone. The other daughters were told that they would be taken away from home if they said anything.

Russian pilots taxi in for a better airline

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO Russian pilots training at Heathrow airport are the first from Aeroflot to learn how to fly an American-built commercial jet liner, says British Airways. Dmitry Shirayev, aged 44, and Yuri Nikiforov, aged 30, arrived in Britain last week for a six-week course on flying the twin-engined Boeing 767, which will become the backbone of Air Russia, an airline being set up by BA and Aeroflot.

The Russian pilots normally fly Ilyushin IL-62s, VC10 lookalikes which carry a crew of five rather than the two who fly the Boeing 767s. "Compared with the cockpit we are used to the 767 is very small," said Captain Shirayev after a session on BA's simulator at the Cranebank training centre. "Although the two-man operation is new to us, the aircraft is easy to fly because of the new technology it uses."

Captain Geoff Crawford, flight operations manager for Air Russia, was impressed with the Russians' flying skills. "If these two pilots are representative of Aeroflot's standards they will have no difficulty in adapting to the 767," he said.

BA signed an agreement with Aeroflot, the Russian Federation and the Soviet authorities to set up a joint venture airline in July and put up £20 million as an initial investment. Air Russia will operate seven 767s and begin international services in 1994 from Domodedovo airport, near Moscow.

Most of the pilots will be Russian, although English will be the common language. Some British pilots will be recruited to fly alongside their Soviet counterparts. In-flight service is planned to be far superior to that provided for Aeroflot passengers.

Charity reels in royal salmon beat

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AVAILABLE early next year: a week's fishing for two rods, ghillie included, on one of the Queen's prime salmon beats on the Dee near Balmoral. Apply now: all proceeds donated to a welfare charity for fish.

The Birkhall beat, a short distance downstream from the castle, near the Dee's confluence with its tumbling, peaty tributary, the Muick, is much prized by anglers, and a week's use of it is estimated to fetch the bargain price of £450 at auction. But, as fishermen from a little further south would know, you don't get owt for nowt. The week on offer is March 23-28, not exactly prime time on the salmon calendar.

As in previous years, the Queen has donated a week on her normally exclusive estate in aid of the Atlantic Salmon Trust, which is engaged in long-term research into the decline in the numbers and quality of Atlantic salmon in British rivers. The trust is inviting bids in a postal auction for more than 200 lots of fishing, ranging from single days on a variety of rivers, to complete weeks on several sought-after and usually highly expensive beats on the Tweed, which are expected to make at least £2,000 each.

The auction has become an annual event for the Perthshire-based trust, and is now one of its main sources of income. In the past three years there has been a significant decline in catches and stock levels.

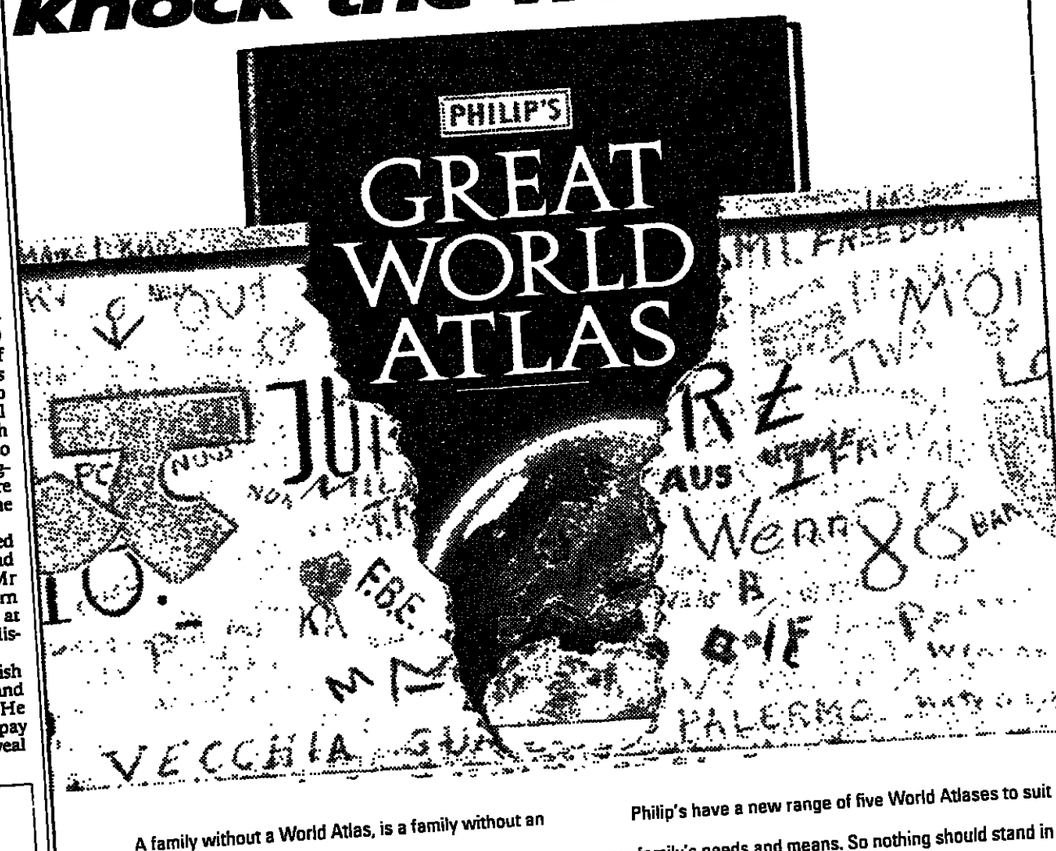
John Mackenzie, the trust's director, said yesterday that although there was as yet no firm evidence, the problem appeared to lie on the high seas with the salmon being caught as they migrated across the Atlantic, rather than in the rivers. Coastal netting of salmon was also showing declining catches.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, has bowed to trust pressure and has agreed to set up a working party on salmon stocks early in the new year.

Stocks continue to decline in spite of recent agreement with the Faroe Islands that they should cease long-line deep-sea catching of salmon on their migration routes across the north Atlantic. The only other legal area of salmon fishing on the high seas is off Greenland, but a major problem of illegal fishing remains and is largely concentrated off the coast of Ireland. Declining stocks of sea trout in British waters are also worrying scientists and fishermen, and the trust is also supporting research in that area.

The closing date for bids in the trust auction is February 3, 1992. Copies of the catalogue can be obtained from the Director, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Moulin, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JQ, telephone 0796 3439. Bids may be submitted by fax on 0796 3554.

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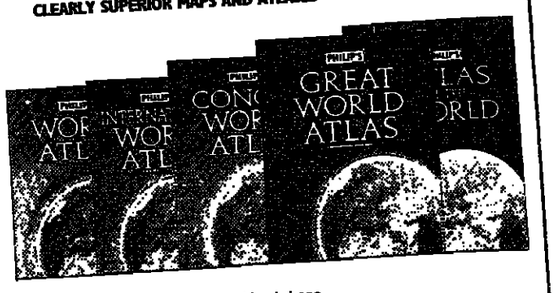
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British Rail takes blame for junction death crash

BY KERRY GILL

BRITISH Rail said yesterday that it accepted responsibility for the rail accident outside Glasgow earlier this year, in which four people died and 22 were injured, and that it was prepared to consider sympathetically all reasonable claims.

The head-on crash between two trains could not have happened if a junction system had not been altered only a month before the incident, a senior ScotRail employee told the first day of an enquiry into the cause of the crash.

Simon Lane, ScotRail's operating manager, told the hearing: "I wish to register my sincere regret and offer my condolences to the families and friends of the deceased, to those injured and to anyone inconvenienced in any way by the accident."

The enquiry, held by the Health and Safety Executive, was told that there were ten "single lead junctions", including the site of the Glasgow crash, in England and Scotland. There had been two other accidents at similar junctions, at Bellgrove, also in Glasgow, in March 1989, when a driver and a passenger were killed, and at Hyde, Manchester, where there were no fatalities.

The single lead junctions have replaced parallel junction systems, which had double rather than single tracks. In all three crashes, a train had been on a stretch of track that it could not have entered under the old system.

On the evening of July 21 the two suburban trains collided next to the station at Newton, said to be a focal point for almost 300 trains every day. The trains would have been only 205 metres, or six seconds or less, apart when they became visible to each other, the enquiry was told. Alan Mackie, movements manager for ScotRail, said that under the old arrangement the accident would not have happened.

Alan Gore, representing the widow of Reginald McEwan, aged 61, a train driver who died, asked Mr Mackie: "Whatever may be found to have been the conduct of drivers or signalling, under the old geographical layout this accident could not have occurred?" Mr Mackie said that that was correct.

Mr Gore, who also represents the rail union Aslef, said that the union had been opposed to single lead junctions because of their potential for a head-on collision.

He said that the statistical probability of a train passing a danger signal was once for each driver every 26 years. Mr Gore said that a similar accident to that at Newton was possible unless there was a return to double tracking. Mr Lane said that the ramifications for the railways would be enormous.

The others who died in the crash were a driver, David Scott, aged 27, of Glasgow, and two passengers, Kenneth Meechan, aged 20, of Wishaw, Strathclyde, and Tracey Donnachie, aged 18, of Shotts, Strathclyde.

The enquiry continues today.

TONY WHITE



Trumpet parade: Corporal Sid Arnold, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band, blasts out a tune for Ben Pounder, aged eight, from Jersey, during a visit yesterday by the Mounties to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London

'Fatal fire caused by burglar'

A FIRE that killed a woman was caused by a burglar striking matches to find his way around her home, Halifax magistrates were told yesterday.

Tahir Khan, for the prosecution, said that Sean Kennedy, aged 21, had left the house empty handed and claimed to have known nothing about the fire when arrested the following day. Denise Smithies, aged 42, who had been asleep with her husband, died after helping their two sons to safety during the fire earlier this month.

Mr Khan said that Mr Kennedy had left the Smithies's home, at Sowerby, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, to burgle another house near by. Mr Kennedy, of Sowerby, was charged with manslaughter and burglary. Reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of his solicitor, Rachim Singh, who said that the police and forensic science experts accepted that the fire had not been caused deliberately.

Mr Singh said everything indicated that it had been an accident. He added that Mr Kennedy would not have committed another burglary in the area had he known about the fire. Magistrates remanded Mr Kennedy in custody for a week.

Losers 'will equal winners' in new tax

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

AS MANY families will lose from the change from the community charge to the council tax as will gain from the transition, according to new figures which were published yesterday.

A study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies showed that although the wealthiest householders would suffer most from the change, around 5 per cent of those on lowest incomes would also be worse off.

According to the report, eight out of ten families in the top income bracket will be worse off by up to £2.50 a week. More than half of families on above average earnings will also lose. The biggest gains, of more than £1 a week, will be for those on middle incomes living in average value homes.

Research by John Hills and Holly Sutherland, of the London School of Economics, found that 37 per cent of households would be worse off under the council tax while the same percentage would gain.

The new tax, due to replace the poll tax in April 1993, will be based on eight tax bands based on the market value of properties. A complex system of personal rebates and discounts will link tax bills to the ability of householders to pay, allowing the researchers to say which income groups will fare best.

Ministers have said that if the tax had been introduced this year the average bill would have been £400. The researchers, who found that this figure was based on government targets rather than spending by councils, put the average council tax bill at £473 in England.

They also rejected suggestions that the tax could be made fairer by adding additional tax bands for low and high value properties. Ms Sutherland said: "Too few properties lie outside the existing bands to have much effect." The only way to reduce average bills was to revert to something closer to the rating system but based on the capital value of homes. That would reduce the average bill to £446 for each household, she said.

Royal Mail sounds last post for the forgetful

BY DAVID YOUNG

BILL Cockburn believes he has come close to killing off several of the most used excuses in British life. As managing director of the Royal Mail, he has tried to make redundant: "Honestly darling, I put your anniversary/birthday card in the post last week", and "The cheque is in the post".

The Royal Mail has announced that Britain's first class letter reliability has reached its highest level yet, with an extra 285 million letters a year landing on the doormat the day after posting. An independently conducted performance report shows that 89.5 per cent of first class letters are arriving by the Royal Mail's target of the next working day, and that second class letters have a 97.4 per cent chance of arriving within the target of three working days.

At Mount Pleasant sorting office, in central London, still the largest sorting office in Europe and the spiritual home of thousands of Postman Pats, Mr Cockburn said: "These are the best results since independent checks on letter reliability began, resulting in scores of millions more letters arriving earlier. I am very proud of our postmen and postwomen who are leaving their European counterparts far behind when it comes to delivering first class letters next day. They've got the others truly licked."

Even better results are promised and there will be a "green" bonus, as a new computer means that the Royal Mail's transport fleet can cut its annual mileage by 20 per cent with more efficient routing. Mr Cockburn said that a 90 per cent reliability rate for first class mail being delivered by the next working day was "within our grasp". He added: "We do not regard that as a ceiling, and we will continue to drive it forward."



Cockburn: proud of the latest reliability results

He said that the 24p cost of a first class stamp was the best value for money in Europe, with the equivalent cost being 25p in France, 35p in Germany, 37p in Italy, and 42p in Denmark. "We do not get a penny of subsidy and we run the Royal Mail commercially," he said. "Improving the service is our main objective and we are investing £1.6 billion over the next five years."

Mr Cockburn said yesterday that:

- 94 per cent of first class letters to local addresses arrive by the next working day: a 1.8 per cent improvement on last year's April to September figure.
- 91.3 per cent of first class letters to addresses in "neighbouring" postal districts meet their target: a 5 per cent improvement.
- 84.9 per cent of first class mail to "long distance" addresses in Britain meet the target: a 6.8 per cent improvement.

Second class mail sent locally has a 99.1 per cent chance of arriving within three working days, letters sent to neighbouring areas have a 98.2 per cent chance, and long-distance mail has a 95.2 per cent chance.

The service's fleet of 30,000 vehicles covers 460 million miles each year and can be directed at the touch of a button through its new computer system.

The Consumer Association has welcomed the latest figures from the Royal Mail. It said: "This is all very good news, but what we would like to see is a better system for dealing with complaints if things do go wrong. It would also be useful if performance figures for each area were available in the local post offices, because these figures are an average and there may be areas where service is not so good."

FIRST CLASS MAIL DELIVERED NEXT DAY



Will makers blamed for scaring people

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SCAREMONGERING in advertisements that offer help in making wills is unacceptable, the Advertising Standards Authority told the advertising industry yesterday.

The authority, which has recently condemned several adverts for will-making kits and services, said that advertisers must not imply that distress and complications beset the families of those who died without writing a will.

The authority said: "We accept that there is merit in writing a will in order to safeguard the future for family and beneficiaries but the fear created by some advertisements serves only to misinform and will cause undue public concern."

The authority recently upheld a complaint against Trent Mail Order for advertisements which said: "Have you left your children at the mercy of the state? . . . without a will the courts (not you) will determine what happens to your loved ones."

Claiming that the courts decide the fate of loved ones was inaccurate, as the distribution of an estate in the absence of a will was determined by the Intestacy Rules under the Administration of Estates Act (1925). The rules could be contested in court. Children would not be taken into care unless a suitable guardian could not be found.

The authority said the advert broke its code of conduct, inciting distress by "playing on fear without good reason".

Tablets blunder man wins £300,000

A man who lapsed into a coma and suffered permanent brain damage after he was given the wrong tablets received £300,000 compensation at the High Court in London yesterday.

David Greene, aged 42, a musician, was a mild schizophrenic, said his QC, Robin Stewart. At a chemist owned by Ashapura Enterprises in Islington, north London, in September 1986, he was given a bottle for someone with the same surname, which contained a drug used to treat diabetics. He was found in a deep hypoglycaemiac coma.

The money will be invested on his behalf to cover his hospital care. "Liability was not in issue," Mr Justice Garland was told.

Mr Greene, now living near his family in the Republic of Ireland and a hospital in-patient, is epileptic and virtually confined to a wheelchair.

IRA inquest

The inquest into the deaths of two IRA members, Patricia Black, aged 18, and Frank Ryan, 25, who were killed by their own bomb in St Albans, Hertfordshire, was adjourned yesterday until February for further enquiries. After the hearing, police said that Black's body was being released to her family. Ryan's body was being witheld as positive identification had not been completed.

Dusty libel

Dusty Springfield, the singer, accepted "substantial" damages at the High Court in London after being portrayed as a drunk by Bobby Davro, the impressionist, on a TVS television programme. Her counsel, Hilary Heilbron, QC, said that Miss Springfield had not drunk alcohol for eight years.

Gas charge

British Gas will be charged today at Hitchin magistrates' court, Hertfordshire, with exposing the health and safety of the residents of Royston to danger. A series of explosions took place in the town on March 8 after a gas surge.

Fast explorer

Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, the explorer, of Barnes, southwest London, admitted driving at 109mph on the M4 in a letter to magistrates at Chippenham, Wiltshire. Sentence was adjourned.

Train injury

A boy aged 14 was treated in hospital for a head injury after jumping from the roof of a passenger train near Porth, Mid Glamorgan. Five other youths were seen riding on the roof with him.

Planes collide

Nearly 300 passengers were evacuated unhurt when a Swissair Airbus collided with a British Airways 757 on the taxiway at Heathrow airport.

New university

The first university in Cornwall will be created when the Camborne School of Mines merges with the University of Exeter in 1993.

Health group wants £3 cigarette pack by 1995

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government-funded Health Education Authority yesterday challenged ministers to raise tobacco taxes and ban cigarette advertising, with a report showing that smoking-related diseases kill 300 people every day and cost the health service £437 million a year.

The authority produced figures from every health district in the UK in what it described as the most important document published on the impact of smoking. It called for the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes to be raised from just over £2 at present to £3 by 1995, and restated its backing for a European Commission plan to ban all forms of tobacco advertising in member states.

The authority's enthusiam for these measures is not shared by some ministers and exposes a policy gap between it and the government. Ministers are reluctant to support the proposed EC ban, and senior officials at the authority believe that, with a general election looming, there will not be a big increase in tobacco taxes in the next Budget.

The report shows that, nationally, Manchester has the highest proportion of deaths due to smoking, with about one in five of all recorded deaths attributed to tobacco-linked illnesses.

The worst ten district health authorities are all urban areas, four in the North-West, four in the North-East, and two in London. The lowest figures in England are in Maidstone, Kent, with about five deaths a week. In Scotland, the Orkney and Shetland islands have the lowest figures, and Clydebank, near Glasgow, the highest.

The report says that 14 million people in the UK smoke and that, as a result, 111,000 a year die of related illnesses, mainly heart disease, lung cancer, pulmonary disease and strokes. Every year about 285,000 smokers are admitted to hospital with smoking-associated conditions, and occupy an average of 9,500 hospital beds a day.

"The most effective single measure to reduce smoking would be price increases over the next ten years above the rate of inflation," Sir Donald Maitland, chairman of the authority's board, said yesterday.

□ Treatment facilities for kidney patients should be expanded by 25 per cent, with a threefold increase in the number of specialists dealing with them, a report by the Renal Association and the National Kidney Federation suggested yesterday.

The report says that, although the UK treats more patients than most other EC countries, those nations have more special units and expert staff. "Unless specialist renal consultants are easily accessible, many patients are not likely to receive expert advice and treatment. Some may die without even being diagnosed as having malfunctioning kidneys," John Powell, chairman of the federation, said.

Proportions of total deaths due to smoking

Top 5	%
1 Cleveland	19.8
2 Greater Glasgow	18.7
3 Durham	18.3
4 Humberside	18.3
5 Nottinghamshire	18.2
Bottom 5	**%**
1 Shetland	12.9
2 Orkney	14.0
3 Highland	14.6
4 East Sussex	15.0
5 Somerset	15.0

Source: HEA

MARTIN BEDDALL



Shouldering responsibility: Ian Gough, an inspector for the RSPCA's London region, with Cracker yesterday. The kitten will be helping the society's campaign, which starts today, urging people not to give pets as Christmas presents to prevent thousands of unwanted cats and dogs being abandoned. Also helping will be Frosty, a seven-week-old collie puppy, which will be appearing on advertisements with the slogan "If you give a damn, don't give a pet". Frosty was found abandoned outside Guildford police station, Surrey, just over a week ago. National newspaper advertisements will be followed by commercials on local radio and BSkyB. The RSPCA says that its centres are already full as hundreds of people have abandoned their pets because they cannot afford to feed them during the recession. Some pets are abandoned soon after their arrival on Christmas day and the RSPCA's Liverpool home last year handled 26 unwanted puppies between December 27 and New Year's eve. Last year, the charity had to put down more than 73,000 unwanted pets.

Beetle could help deserts bloom

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE feeding antics of a southern African beetle have led to the development of a water collection device which, according to two engineers from Britain and the Soviet Union, could halt the spread of the world's deserts.

Onymacris unguicularis, the Namibian fog-basking beetle, stands on its head on the desert dunes of the early morning to gather moisture. Mist collects and condenses on its back before running down into its mouth.

The device developed by Stuart Clyens and Boris Berlin, of the Danish Technological Institute in Copenhagen, involves a cylinder that stands on three hollow legs buried in the ground. It has just won the annual £40,000 development prize from the bank TopDenmark.

Hanging below the cylinder are an acrylic brush and a steel ball. Early morning mist, the only moisture in some desert areas, condenses on the brush. As temperatures climb, the brush is pulled inside by an actuator, a device common in greenhouses that uses the melting and solidifying of wax to open and shut windows. The ball, travelling behind the brush, shuts off the bottom of the cylinder, sealing the water-laden brush inside.

During the day, the water evaporates and is forced down the hollow legs back into the ground, where it condenses. At night, temperatures fall and the brush and its ball are lowered again.

The researchers, along with scientists at the Ecological Botanical Institute in Copenhagen, are planning to bury bags of earth in which seeds, hardy enough to withstand desert temperatures, will grow beneath the devices. It is hoped that such plants will become self-sustaining and will cool the deserts naturally by attracting rain clouds.

Mr Clyens said that laboratory tests indicated that the collectors, which would stand about 9ft high, could trap up to 2.2 gallons of water each day. The £40,000 award will be used to refine the device so that it can withstand high winds and shifting sands.

"We estimate they will cost about £70 a unit if mass produced, and would need to be spaced about 30 to 40 metres [98-130ft] apart," Mr Clyens said. "It's a low-technology solution, and we want to be able to just put them in the desert and leave them alone for a decade or so."

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NISSAN



Do not sign EMU treaty, pleads Joseph

John Winder and **Peter Mulligan** report how peers view Britain's EC prospects

MINISTERS were warned last night not to sign the treaty on economic and monetary union at Maastricht even with its "opt-out" clause allowing Parliament to decide whether to join a single currency later.

Lord Joseph, a former key member of Margaret Thatcher's government, told the House of Lords: "A single currency with a single central bank leads ineluctably to a single central government." He told peers during the debate on Europe that he much regretted the governemnt's apparent readiness to sign the European monetary union treaty and rely on the opt-out clause.

Lord Cledwyn, Labour's leader in the Lords, used the debate to express sympathy for John Major whose task at Maastricht had been made "infinitely more difficult" by attacks from Mrs Thatcher. There was laughter when he suggested that despite her espousal of the form, he doubted whether she would have called a referendum, had she still been in charge now. "She always tended to regard her own pronouncements as equivalent to a referendum."

Opening the debate, **Lord Waddington**, leader of the House, made clear that Britain's view on the future of the Community did not tally with that of some other community members.

He said: "A number of our European partners believe that the changes brought about by the Single European Act set us irrevocably on a pre-determined path leading to political, economic and monetary integration within a federal Europe. That is not the case. Political union is an evolving process — not a goal — and the Community is a developing organism, the ultimate form of which none of us can confidently predict.

"We cannot set the final shape of Europe now. The most we can do is ensure that each step we take, each institutional change, is useful and workable in itself. We must consider the amendments proposed at Maastricht in this light: an end in themselves, not simply a means to a more distant goal."

He added: "Qualified majority voting, European court of justice jurisdiction and a Commission's sole right of initiative — the trappings of Community competence — will in no way strengthen or promote a common policy where no common will exists. We should not at Maastricht be looking for a possible model for co-operation far in the future but for practical arrangements which improve co-operation here and now."

Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Opposition peers, said that where agreement at Maastricht was clearly impossible the matters should be reserved for further consideration and that was preferable to a pointless and acrimonious haggle.

"The impression has been created that Maastricht is a 'make-or-break' summit. That is a great mistake, for it has been plain from the start that there are issues on which total agreement is impossible, at least at *this* stage."

The Commission at present posed a problem. Why should it not be more accountable to the European parliament?

"We should go further. The European parliament has some very limited powers and there is a strong case for extending them, as otherwise it could develop into an expensive talking shop and nothing else. We think its powers should complement, but not replace, national parliaments and should also share some powers with the Commission to institute legislation."



Opposing peers: Lord Joseph (left) and Lord Cledwyn, who spoke yesterday

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a former EC Commissioner, speaking for the Liberal Democrats, said that the government's behaviour had little to do with a practical, pragmatic approach to European unity, and everything to do with preventing Conservative disunity in the approach to Maastricht. It was not succeeding even in that.

In one of the shortest maiden speeches of recent years — less than five minutes — **the Duke of Manchester** said that unless Britain went to Maastricht with all parties united to maintain Britain's sovereignty and constitution, they would be giving away what past and present generations had sacrificed themselves for. Britain must not be outside the European pact.

Lord Cockfield (C), another former EC Commissioner, said that Mr Major had told the Commons last week that there was no greater sanction than the market. The market had delivered its verdict and it was not an encouraging one. All sorts of explanations would be found for the rise of the deutschmark and the fall of sterling, but the real explanation lay in the fear of the market that Maastricht would not succeed.

He would like to see the United Kingdom go into a single currency from the beginning, but in the circumstances of this country, the course taken by the prime minister was the best and wisest available.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (Lab), former prime minister, said: "I simply cannot accept that the pound is a symbol either of stability — its value has declined consistently through both governemnts ever since the war — or of sovereignty. There is no such thing as pure sovereignty today."

To use it as this kind of symbol "will do everything to convince the Europeans that we are a backward-looking nation wallowing in nostalgia, instead of looking forward to what must lie ahead."

Lord Joseph (C) said that ministers should not sign the treaty on economic and monetary union because to do so would "undermine our rejection of a single central government". There would be immense pressure for a such a government once a single central bank and currency were established.

On the suggestion that the other 11 countries could set up a single currency outside the Treaty of Rome, he asked: "Will the 11 want to go ahead without any contribution from us, one of the main contributors of money within the common market, towards the heavy subsidies that other member states will be demanding?"

Lord Joseph also cast doubt on the likelihood of a fiercely monetarist single central bank with stable money. The bank, he said, would contain Portuguese, Greeks and Italians — "noble peoples in their way but not ideal people to put in charge of a single central bank."

Lord Rippon of Hexham (C), who conducted British entry negotations when Edward Heath was prime minister, said that before a referendum there ought to be more free votes in the Commons. It was "almost bizarre" to hear Mrs Thatcher accuse the government of being arrogant and wrong. She had hardly allowed the cabinet to make decisions, let alone Parliament or the people.

Europe reports, page 11
Letters, page 18

AROUND THE LOBBY

Cardiff Bay to get extra cash

The government is to provide more money for the development of Cardiff Bay, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, announced yesterday as the Cardiff Bay barrage bill was getting its second reading in the Commons.

Mr Hunt said that a further £22 million is being made available, bringing provision for the next three years to £130 million.

He told the Commons: "The attractive new environment created by the barrage will result in 25,000 direct and 7,500 indirect jobs. Private sector investment of over £1 billion will be attracted into the area, and 4,800 homes will be built of which a quarter will be low-cost social housing."

The bill replaces the private measure sponsored by Cardiff Development Corporation and Labour-controlled South Glamorgan county council, which failed to make progress through the Commons for more than two years because of fierce opposition from some South Wales Labour MPs. They argued that it could damage the environment and threaten wildlife.

Port sale date

The Port of London Authority hopes to complete the sale of Tilbury, London's biggest port, by the end of next February, Patrick McLoughlin, shipping minister, said.

Rail link bank

Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, said at question time that he is soon to appoint merchant bankers to advise on private sector finance for the Channel tunnel rail link. He emphasised the importance of private sector finance in the project.

BR under fire

British Rail's Network SouthEast was criticised sharply by Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, during question time. He said that although the service had improved, "recent performance on the Kent coast lines has not been acceptable".

Greetings

Roger Freeman, public transport minister, took advantage of being the first MP to speak in the Commons yesterday to wish the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, a happy birthday. He was 71.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; prime minister. Further and higher education (Scotland) bill, second reading.
Lords (2.30): Nurses, midwives and health visitors bill, committee.

Firms to aid staff entering politics

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

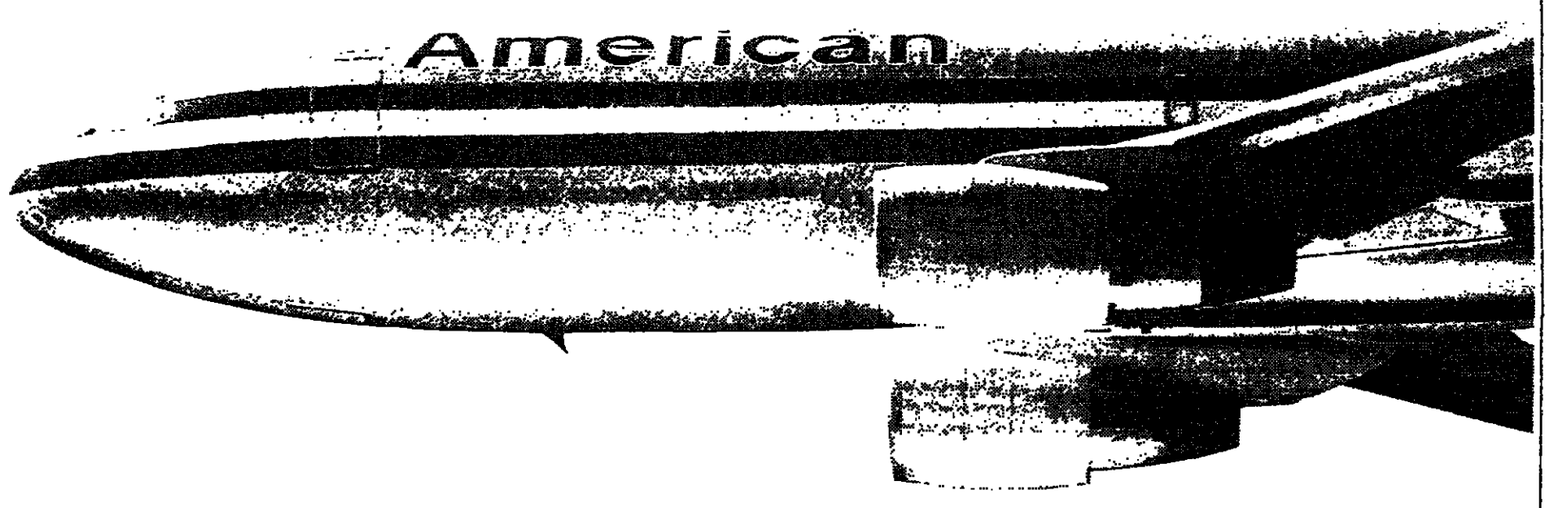
IN AN effort to halt the decline in the number of MPs with experience of industry, some leading companies have agreed to encourage their employees to go into politics just as they smile on their involvement with the Territorial Army or as school governors.

British Petroleum, ICI, Reed International, the Dowty Group, British Nuclear Fuels, Nationwide, B & Q and Marks and Spencer are among more than 20 companies that have announced their support for a declaration on political service drawn up by the Industry and Parliament Trust. This says that companies should encourage their employees to become involved in constituency parties and make plain what support they will offer to those who opt for political careers.

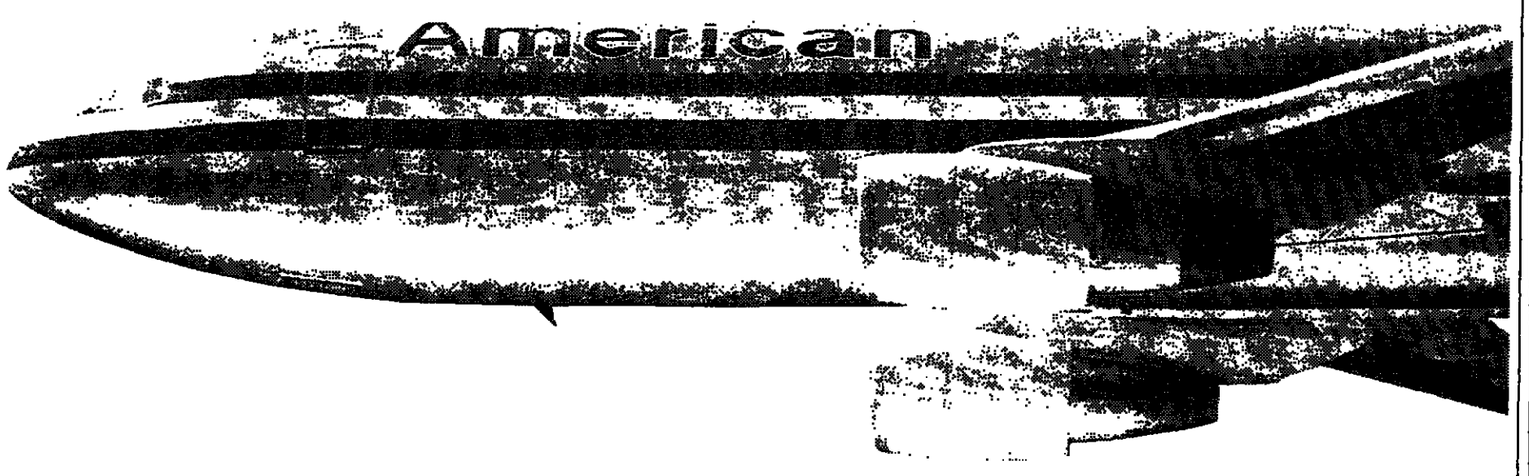
The declaration, which is headed by a quotation from Plato: "The penalty that good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves", states: "We believe that it is essential for the health of the democratic process that political service should be regarded as part of community service". The document adds that many companies have encouraged Territorial Army membership and school governorships for middle management development and that similar policies should be adopted by companies for those interested in political service. It pledges "positive encouragement" for those self-motivated enough for politics.

The Industry and Parliament Trust, which seeks to keep the worlds of business and politics in contact by attaching MPs of all parties to companies and by bringing businessmen to Westminster to see how it works, has become alarmed about the decline in business experience in Parliament. Of the 130 MPs first elected in 1987, only 21 per cent could be said to have made their living in any sense from business, compared with 32 per cent in 1979.

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Young bands get timely tips on cleaning up their act

Longevity in pop is linked to mastery not of guitar but washing machine, reports **Peter Victor**



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Sound advice: "old hand" Kim Wilde with some down to earth pointers for the band Project X at the launch of the 1992 Panasonic rock and pop competition

REGARDLESS of the death of Freddie Mercury, the former lead singer of *Queen*, hundreds of thousands of young musicians strive for fame and wealth in the music business. Most are convinced that they have the willpower to avoid the excesses which lead to self-destruction or, perhaps worse, obscurity.

The 1992 national schools Panasonic Audio rock and pop competition was launched yesterday at the Rock Island Diner in central London. Several hundred bands of would-be pop stars are expected to enter. Members of the band Project X, runners-up this year, were not dissuaded by the fate of rock and roll's casualties. Iyare Igiehon, aged 18, lead vocalist and most vocal of the band, from Islington VI form centre in London, summed it up thus: "It's all about control."

The band members, aged between 16 and 18, are confident they can cope with temptation. "It's got to be foremost about making music," Mr Igiehon said, conceding that extra exposure to girls was a bonus. Sam Frank, aged 16, the band's saxophonist, said the demise of established stars served as an object lesson: "If you've got any brains you'll look at what everyone else has been doing and how bad they've turned out. Whether or not they're rich, they're a mess."

Rozalla, aged 27, a singer whose dance single "Everybody's Free" reached number six in the Gallup poll, acknowledges the dangers but is willing to risk them for success. "I wanted to get involved because of my love for music," she said. "I love singing. If you're going to take drugs or whatever, that's the individual's problem."

Kim Wilde, the pop singer whose father Marty was a teenage idol in the Fifties and Sixties, said the protection of the team around her had helped her to avoid potential pitfalls: "My mother, father, brother and my management are there to look after me. You can't do it on your own. You can't forget about normal things. I saw an interview with Elton John saying how he didn't even know how to load a washing machine. I knew exactly what he meant. His life had become so removed from reality. My advice to Project X would be, don't forget how to use the washing machine; do their own ironing and they'll be fine."

Mr Mercury was not known to do his own ironing. What he *was* famous for, in addition to his music, were his wild parties, which sometimes lasted two days, and his relationships with members of both sexes.

Liberace, Alan Murphy, Level 42 guitarist, Billy Lyall, a former Bay City Roller, and now Mr Mercury have died of Aids. The disease is the latest to claim performers who have traditionally fallen to alcohol and drug abuse. News that it has attacked the wealthy and famous has made it less of a subject to be talked about in hushed tones. Barnardo's and the Terence Higgins Trust have produced a brochure, *What I Can Do About Aids*, designed as a practical guide for schoolchildren explaining what Aids is, how people get HIV and what to do if someone they know has the disease. This and a second leaflet — *Aids In The Family* — aimed at parents and guardians, will be launched by Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, today.

Rather than diminishing his stature, Freddie Mercury's reclusive last years and premature death will perhaps ensure his place in the rock and roll hall of fame more than any of his many musical achievements.

Like many before him, the fact that he died before he got (too) old, at 45, will ensure that fans remember him among the greats. Yesterday William Hill, the bookmaker, was offering even money that any record by Queen would be the Christmas number one. Mr Mercury's record company is unlikely to resist the opportunity.

Mercury obituary, page 16

Flood of shameful confessions washes away TV soaps

Urge to tell all holds America captive

Shows flaunt issues once of interest only to voyeurs, psychiatrists and the police, writes **Charles Bremner**

ONCE upon a time, television talk shows were simple stuff, in which a middle-aged host elicited anecdotes from celebrities. No one would have suggested inviting an orchid for a chat or asking the studio audience to describe sexual abuse at the hands of their parents. But that was before the urge to tell all overwhelmed America, or at least its television producers.

Switch on a TV set this autumn at any time of the day or night and you will be greeted by a flood of talk, some of it revelling in "issues" that might once have interested only voyeurs, psychiatrists or the police. "How do you manage to drive with such enormous breasts?" the host asked a blimp-shaped guest on one show devoted to the problems of such people. On another a surgeon showed off penile implants. "I can't make it long enough to hang a flag on or hard enough to drive a nail with," he quipped as the audience roared.

Video-voyeurism has been around in a milder form since the early 1980s, when Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey started coaxing people into airing raw emotions and intimate secrets. The genre has exploded this year, thanks to recession, intense competition for ratings and the desire of everyone, from celebrities to ordinary civilians, to air their psyches and sins for public delectation. Between one and two dozen chat shows are now on the air in the average city. They range from the genteel daily broadcasts of Johnny Carson, the dean of the old-fashioned format, to the wilder reaches inhabited by such New York cable channel personalities as Aurora Borealis, a psychic who talks to plants, and Al Goldstein, who wears nothing while interviewing naked guests.

Minor celebrities are tried out as hosts in the low-cost programmes which are replacing soap operas and game shows as the main daytime fare. The typical guest arrives to lance an emotional wound or to discuss his or her recovery, usually from an addiction such as sex, a "substance" or a compulsive behaviour such as lying. Shows this autumn have sexual abuse, sibling murderers, Mafia women and parents who let their children have sex at home.

There seems no agony which people are not willing to relive on the box. Geraldo Rivera, the king of the shock genre, scored high ratings the other day by inviting people who had accidentally killed their children. Mr Rivera, who has just published an autobiography called *Exposing Myself*, broadcast an interview of Margaret Thatcher by her daughter Carol in London. According to Marty Berman, the producer of Mr Rivera's show, TV confession is healthy. "With the explosion around this country of support and self-help groups, this is a society really trying to make itself well," he said.

The talk epidemic is drawing censure for stepping beyond the bounds of decency. "Mr Rivera and his talk-show colleagues are attempting to whack away at a critical element in the American psyche, one that makes for decent human beings," *The Washington Times*, said recently. "It's called shame."

Social science leads to dole

BY JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MANY of Britain's brightest social scientists are heading straight for the dole queue, according to a report published today.

After at least six years of painstaking study, more than 800 students a year are awarded doctorates only to become a "largely invisible population in the economy". The Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex University expects their prospects to improve only if there is a sharp rise in the number of academic posts in social sciences.

Only the top undergraduates are accepted for PhDs, and most employers with experience of recruiting postgraduates would have preferred them to have spent an extra four years at work.

First jobs for social science doctors (%)

Teaching/lecturing	37
Research (post doc)	30
Other (e.g media, computing, social work)	17
Other research work	8
Financial services	5
Admin/management	3
Legal services	2

Source: IMS. Percentages rounded

Femina award

Paris: The Australian poet and novelist David Malouf has been awarded the Femina prize for best foreign novel for the French translation of *The Great World*. It was the third novel by Malouf, aged 57, who divides his time between Australia and Italy, to be translated into French. *(AFP)*

Last orders

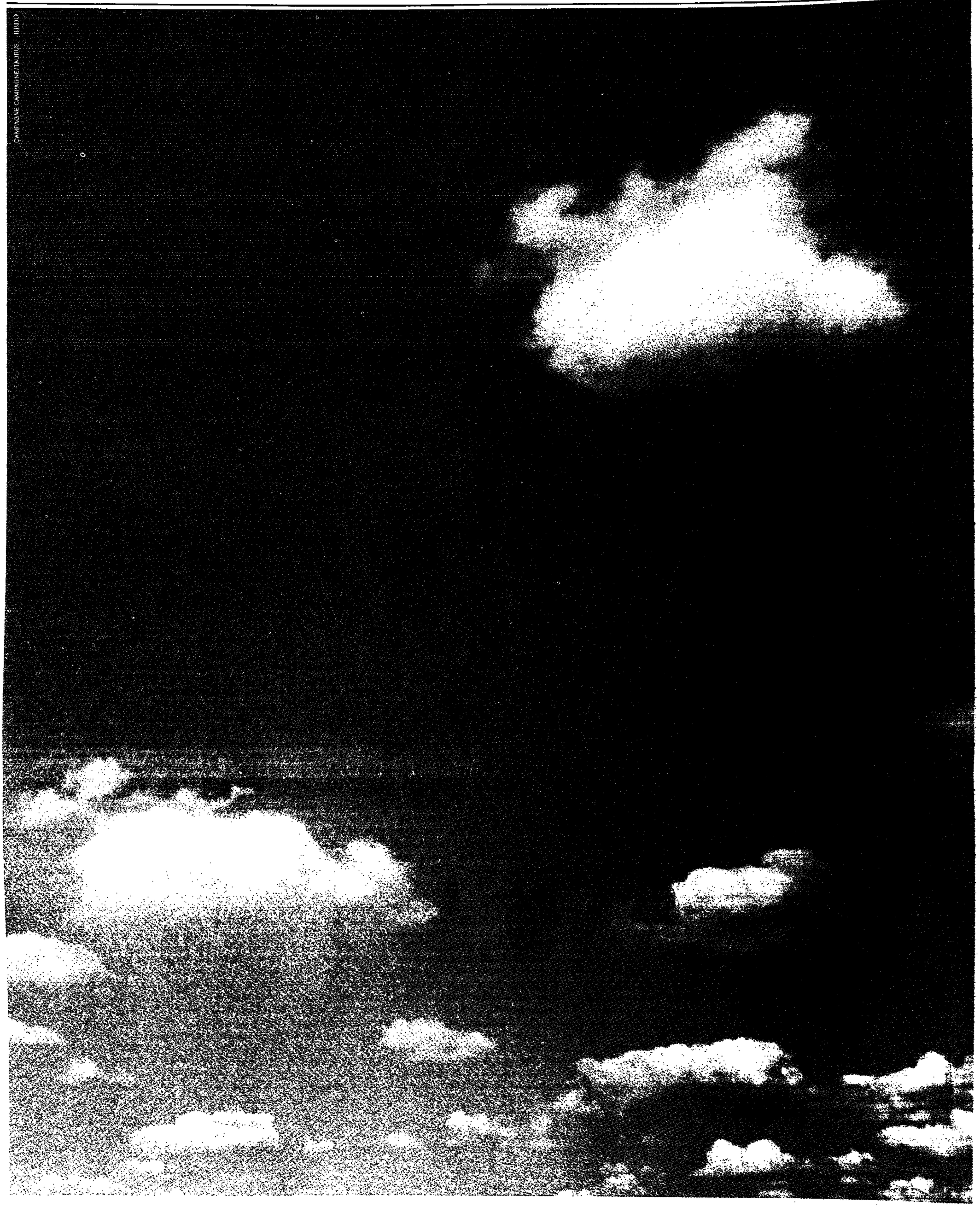
Peking: Two years after the official outlawing of government banquets, the Chinese bureaucrats' ravenous appetite for wining and dining has forced Peking to reissue a ban on the "unhealthy trend" of squandering public money on official feasts. *(AFP)*

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US seeking pre-poll assault on Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A YEAR before the American presidential election, the US administration is casting around for new ways to undermine President Saddam Hussein, acutely aware that Democratic challengers will use the Iraqi dictator's survival in power to detract from President Bush's victory in the Gulf war.

A high-level interdepartmental committee which was established after the war is said to have considered ideas ranging from the training and arming of guerrillas to supporting a provisional rebel government in northern Iraq. But all such solutions have run up against the same intractable problems, primarily the disunity of the Kurdish, Shia and Sunni rebels and the danger of America being sucked into the quagmire of Iraq's complex internal politics.

The administration's post-war hopes that it could engineer a military coup against Saddam by sustaining Iraq's strict economic and diplomatic isolation look increasingly forlorn. Intelligence experts believed the plans would fail, largely because they depended on some degree of American leverage over internal Iraqi politics and some degree of co-operation among Iraqi rebel groups.

There was a brief flurry of optimism in Washington this month when Saddam sacked his son-in-law as defence minister and brought in a hard-line cousin, but the CIA estimates that Saddam's grip on power remains as strong as ever, despite the desperate straits to which his country has been reduced. Indeed, to Mr Bush's intense irritation, Saddam has taken every opportunity to defy America, most recently by forbidding UN helicopters to overfly Iraq in their search for nuclear facilities.

One White House official laughed in acknowledgement yesterday when it was suggested that the committee had achieved practically nothing. Another, quoted in *The Washington Post*, insisted that discussion of how to destabilise Saddam's regime was still "very alive". He said: "There are a lot of ideas out there. I would not rule out that we would move in more aggressive ways." Mr Bush and his aides still see the Gulf victory as a trump card in his re-election campaign, one that would outweigh his domestic failures, and in recent fundraising speeches he has repeatedly castigated congressional Democrats for their opposition to the war.



Saddam: his hold on power remains strong

"If I had to let Ted Kennedy tell me whether I could move a half million troops to the Middle East, Saddam Hussein would still be in Kuwait and he'd be moving into Saudi Arabia," Mr Bush told Houston Republicans. "Thank God I didn't have to listen to those carpers telling me how to run that war."

But the president's Democratic opponents now believe they can turn that victory against him. "Iraq is going to be a liability. You know what you do? Show pictures of Saddam Hussein reviewing his troops and say 'Congratulations, George'," said Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York state and the potential Democratic frontrunner.

President Bush made the "worst deal" possible, said Mr Cuomo. He won the war on the battlefield but lost it thereafter.



Homeward bound: Thomas Sutherland, the freed hostage, leaving hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, on his way home to San Francisco in time for Thanksgiving on Thursday. He was kidnapped in Lebanon six years ago

Revolt by Iran's deputies grows

BY HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

A PARLIAMENTARY revolt now gathering pace in Iran is challenging the legitimacy of the post-Khomeini establishment and threatens political and religious turmoil in the run-up to April's election.

After a meeting three weeks ago between 35 deputies and Grand Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, the deposed successor to Ayatollah Khomeini, a list of more than 100 signatories is said to be circulating in the *majlis* (parliament) calling for Ayatollah Montazeri to be declared rightful leader of state in preference to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the official spiritual guide. A radical deputy speaker, Hojatoleslam Hossein Hashemian, who leads the revolt, has been indicted before a clerical court for plotting against Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwas.

The radicals, who form a majority in the assembly, believe they will be barred from standing in next year's general election unless they force a breach between Ayatollah Khamenei and President Rafsanjani. They claim to be in possession of a leaked report from the president's office that he has Ayatollah Khamenei's approval for new rules preventing many deputies from standing on grounds of insufficient religious learning. Hojatoleslam Abolfazl Mousavi, editor of the *Khorasan* newspaper in the city of Mashhad, has been accused before a clerical court of publishing the alleged report.

The court has explained that meeting the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri is not an offence but said the deputies who went to see him had "ulterior motives". The deputies have denied the charges. However, in the view of Ahmad Salamatian, a former liberal member of the *majlis* now in exile in Paris, "When a deputy speaker of the *majlis* goes to meet Ayatollah Montazeri, it cannot be a non-political, purely religious matter in today's Iran. It is an implied declaration of Montazeri as the top *marja taqlid* [source of emulation], with all the obvious political connotations."

The controversy comes at a time of dissatisfaction with Ayatollah Khamenei. His elevation in 1989 was seen by some as a political intrusion into religious affairs. Now some erstwhile supporters have been alienated by economic decline and alleged corruption among officials.

Israel delays reply

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AMERICAN efforts to reconvene the stalled Middle East peace negotiations next month were only partly successful yesterday as the deadline passed for replies to Washington's invitations but with Israel and Syria still undecided.

Although Lebanon said officially that it would attend proposed talks in Washington on December 4, and the leader of the Palestinian delegation predicted his team would also attend, Damascus remained uncommitted and Israeli leaders insisted they needed more time to formulate their response.

In Jerusalem, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, consulted senior ministers and aides about President Bush's invitation, but officials insisted that a formal reply could not be sent until the inner cabinet meets tomorrow. While senior aides, such as Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, predicted that the answer would be positive, the Likud-led government is still angry at what it regards as a snub to the Israeli leader during his visit to Washington last Friday, when his proposal for a regional venue was apparently ignored by Mr Bush.

Israel insists that the bilateral talks with its neighbours should be held in the region and that, even if it does attend the Washington talks, the venue and other procedural problems will dominate its agenda.

"We are speaking of a possibility of one or two meetings in Washington, on the assumption and agreement in advance that the other talks wil be in the region and adacent area," said Moshe Nissim, the trade minister.

A poll yesterday in the *Yidiot Aharanot* newspaper suggested that 78 per cent of Israelis say the government should attend the conference.

Druze novel burnt

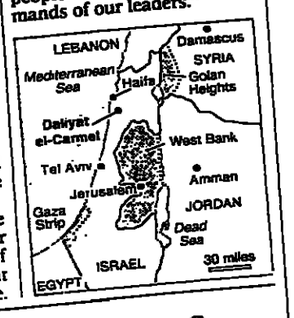
BY RICHARD BEESTON

MUSBAH Halabi, the Druze Israeli author, does not like to be compared with Salman Rushdie. Both were accused of betraying their religions, and both were condemned and threatened for what they wrote.

But when Halabi was ostracised by his society, he burnt his book rather than live under siege. The incident, largely ignored by civil rights activists and writers in Israel and elsewhere, first emerged this summer when advance copies of *Diary of a Young Druze Girl* were circulated among Israeli literary critics. The novel, which was written in Hebrew, attempted to reveal through the eyes of a young girl in Halabi's village of Dalyat al-Carmel the nature of his close-knit community.

The Druze are a secretive sect who have lived in the mountainous regions of Israel, Lebanon and Syria, since they split from the Ismailis in the 11th century. When Halabi, aged 48, attempted to explain how a strict, almost feudal society met the challenges of life in the modern Israeli state, particularly over sensitive subjects such as sex, he was excommunicated by the religious hierarchy and had to be given 24-hour police protection after receiving death threats.

"You cannot compare me to Salman Rushdie. He assaulted his religion; I never touched the subject," he said. "I live among my own people. I accepted the demands of our leaders."



Muslims to hang for Jordan murder plot

FROM REUTER IN AMMAN

JORDAN has sentenced eight Muslim fundamentalists to death for planting car bombs, attacking a foreign bank and setting fire to an off-licence and a nightclub.

A 30-page judgment was made available yesterday by the three-man military tribunal, which found the eight guilty after a trial that began in September. Two of the men were tried in absentia.

Twelve other defendants received prison sentences ranging from four years to life with hard labour. The defendants cannot appeal against their sentences, but King Husain and Taher al-Masri, the prime minister, can commute them. Prosecutors said that those convicted were members of the "Prophet Muhammad's Army", an underground fundamentalist group dedicated to setting up an Islamic state in Jordan.

All of those sentenced to be hanged were convicted of attemped premeditated murder among other charges. The court documents did not reveal their defence.

The court found them guilty of attacking a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East and of planting two car bombs in which a security official and the daughter of a priest each lost a leg. The defendants also set fire to the off-licence and a nightclub. The group had put the Canadian ambassador under surveillance.

Take a look at this building. Have you ever seen anything quite like it?

Who in their right minds would install such ungainly looking posts everywhere, (even across doorways), place milk bottle brackets halfway up the wall and paint a flight of stairs in such a peculiar manner?

The fact is, the builder we decided to employ was totally in his right mind.

Before starting work on Swail House, Epsom, the world's first block of



Photo: Courtesy of Corrine Turner

By the look of these flats, the builder must have been blind.

self contained flats for blind people, we helped the contractor understand the problems blind people have getting around a conventional building.

So on every wall there is a guide rail, to help blind and visually impaired people move around more freely.

Milk bottle holders halfway up the wall, ensure that blind people aren't driven up the wall by constantly stumbling over bottles.

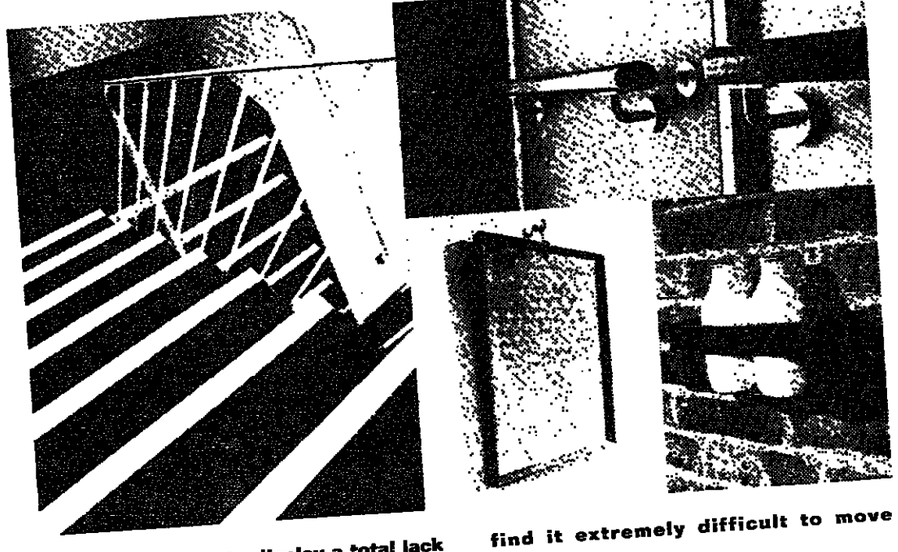
Indeed all the corridors are kept free of furniture and clutter to prevent them becoming obstacle courses.

Whilst the upright poles you can see on the outside of the building are erected so the blind residents can count them to locate their own front doors. Everywhere you look, the needs of blind people have been carefully considered, with braille fire precautions provided for their safety, for instance.

The same is true of the stairs, with each step painted with a line of contrasting colour, to assist those people with residual vision.

Swail House enables them to carry on day to day living with the minimum of assistance and therefore, lead a far more independent life.

If only the same could be said of places meant for the general public, which often seem to display a total lack of consideration towards blind people.



Here, at Action for Blind People, we believe these attitudes are long overdue for change.

To improve matters, we have assisted architects and planners, by getting involved with the planning of public buildings, like shopping centres and industrial complexes, long before they reached the drawing board.

Introducing simple provisions such as textured paving, boldly lettered signs and many of the safety features predominant in Swail House, caused them no great hardship.

However, they can save great hardship for all blind and partially sighted people, who, without such help, find it extremely difficult to move around unhindered.

If there is any way in which you think we can assist you, or you have a blind friend or relative who needs any help or information, please call us on 071 732 8771 and ask for Tony Gillar.

Positive action is always our prime objective, as our name implies.

A name we attempt to live up to in the swiftest and most effective ways.

That can often mean confronting long held misconceptions of the abilities and capabilities of blind people.

Obviously, it isn't blindness which prevents them from getting around without assistance.

It's short-sightedness.

Blindness is the least of our problems

Action for Blind People

Li repays Gandhi visit

Peking and Delhi foster closer links

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, will arrive in Delhi on December 11 for a visit that the government here last night described as an important milestone in relations between India and China, which fought a border war in 1962.

The visit will be the first by a Peking prime minister since that by Chou en-Lai in 1960. The two sides will discuss the continuing border dispute, no longer regarded as a crucial area of conflict, and will seek ways to contain the spread of nuclear weapons in Asia. India, although under strong pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union, has consistently refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, arguing that it will not accept terms imposed from outside. But India and China have both endorsed a Pakistani plan to declare South Asia a nuclear arms-free zone.

Mr Li and P.V. Narasimha Rao, his Indian counterpart, will also discuss economic relations. This is likely to be the most fruitful area for progress, given that Delhi's traditional links with Moscow have significantly weakened, opening the way for stronger ties with Peking. Li Lanqing, China's minister of foreign economic relations and trade, is expected to accompany Mr Li.

India is anxious to establish new international markets as it cautiously relaxes some of its traditional protectionist policies under an economic liberalisation programme launched by Mr Rao, who took office in June. Trade between the two countries, the world's most populous, is a modest $280 million (£155 million) a year, with Peking getting the larger share. Delhi is now clearly ready to put aside its suspicions over China's close relationship with Pakistan in its drive to establish new markets.



Li: taking up where Chou en-Lai left off

Mr Li was to have visited India last December, but postponed his tour because of political turmoil in Delhi. The Indian external affairs ministry said last night that the visit was in response to that by Rajiv Gandhi, then prime minister, in December 1988.

An Indian government spokesman said yesterday that the two sides would discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. They would also discuss setting up consular arrangements in Bombay and Shanghai.

The spokesman added that relations between India and China had improved perceptibly since Gandhi's visit to Peking, which was the first since the border war. The momentum of high-level dialogue had been maintained and bilateral co-operation had grown in various fields of mutual interest.

A statement said: "We have conveyed to the Chinese government our desire to seek further improvement of Indo-China relations and to strengthen and deepen our mutual co-operation." Mr Li's visit would be an important step in that direction, it added.

The prime ministers are likely to review progress of a joint working group on the border, which has met three times since it was set up in December 1988. The border war centred on an area known as Aksai Chin. There have also been territorial arguments between the two countries over areas of the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, with India accusing China of deliberately fomenting trouble in the region.



Escape claws: a turkey making a quick getaway as President Bush signs the annual Thanksgiving Day proclamation yesterday in Washington. The bird will not be killed for this Thursday's festivities, but given to a zoo

Japan learns of body politic

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

ANITA Roddick was in Tokyo yesterday to publicise the Japanese language version of her autobiography, *Body and Soul*, which will be published next April — and to drop in on her three Tokyo Body Shops. Mrs Roddick plans 47 new Japanese branches over the next five years.

Environmentally-sound pink grapefruit eye gel and scores of other friendly ointments have already earned Mrs Roddick billions of yen in Japan. Her Omotesando Body Shop, located in Tokyo's equivalent of Bond Street, has the highest turnover of any overseas branch.

But in Japan as everywhere else, Mrs Roddick has a more elevated agenda than just selling bottles of shampoo. She is energetically banging the drum for environmental issues, on behalf of assorted political prisoners and against animal-testing. As a high profile businesswoman, Mrs Roddick stands out in Tokyo, brow-beating Japan's cosmetics company presidents, mostly balding, blue-suited sexagenarians who would normally blanch at a Brazilian rainforest nut oil and beadwork project unless it guaranteed exemplary returns.

While the Japanese are taken aback by Mrs Roddick, she in turn is clearly taken aback by their cavalier approach to global resources. The Japanese discard 20 billion chopsticks a year, made from enough new wood to build 5,000 sizeable houses. Last year Tokyo's 12 million inhabitants threw out roughly 170,000 televisions and over 250,000 bicycles, many of them in good working order. Japan's consumer giants take care to ensure their goods are never quite durable enough.

Breaking Japan's obsessive gift-wrapping habit is at the top of Mrs Roddick's action list. Buying even a bottle of soy sauce in a department store triggers the production of yards of glossy paper wrappings to be artistically folded and taped for multi-layered protection, with enough pasting of stickers and winding of ribbons for a game of "pass the parcel".

Next door, in the Body Shop, customers are lucky to get a brown paper bag. This has gripped a generation of young Japanese teenagers who spend weekend afternoons sniffing their way round the Body Shop shelves and emerge with armfuls of £2.50 bars of soap.

The environment has yet to become a political issue in Japan. But the government's sloth has spawned hundreds of hardy consumer activist groups run by ordinary housewives.



Roddick: banging the drum on environment

Somali keep up pressur

Nairobi: Mogadishu, th capital of Somalia, suffere its ninth consecutive day c fighting between rival fac tions of the ruling Unite Somali Congress as aid work ers reported that at leas 4,500 people had been woun ded and hundreds killed in the confrontation between President Ali Mahdi Mu hammad and his most senior general, Muhammad Farrah Aidid (Sam Kiley writes).

Staff from Médecins sans Frontières were able to cross battle lines into the north of the city, which is held by members of the Agbar subclan loyal to Mr Ali Mahdi, and managed to get much needed medical supplies to the Somalian government.

A spokesman said: "The situation in this part of the town is very critical. Some houses have been turned into emergency hospitals and we assume that two to three thousand people injured in the fighting are trapped."

Mogadishu has had no running water or communications with the outside world since President Mohamed Siad Barre was driven out of power into hiding behind the rump of his forces in western Somalia.

Miners clash

Johannesburg: Eight miners were killed and 17 more were seriously injured in clashes between Sotho and Xhosa-speaking workers at the President Steyn gold mine at Welkom in the Orange Free State.

Victims named

Jakarta: Amnesty has released a list of 80 people it claims were killed or wounded or are missing after recent shootings by Indonesian forces in East Timor. Indonesia says it will investigate the list. *(AFP)*

Djibouti truce

Djibouti: Rebel Afar tribesmen fighting government forces in Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, announced a ceasefire from midday tomorrow, saying they wished to open peace talks and allow in humanitarian aid. *(Reuter)*

Marcos list

Manila: The Philippines filed new corruption charges against Imelda Marcos, widow of the former president. State lawyers said she could face nearly 400 years' jail if convicted on all 66 criminal cases so far lodged. *(Reuter)*

Arms protest

Canberra: About 200 demonstrators, including an Australian MP, were arrested when police clashed with 600 protesters blockading an international military equipment trade show near Canberra. *(Reuter)*

Pit bull ban

Canberra: Australia announced it would ban the import of pit bull terriers and three other dog breeds considered dangerous. The move follows a spate of attacks on children. *(Reuter)*

Hunt deaths

Exeter, New York: Gene Bulak committed suicide with his shotgun after discovering he had accidentally shot and killed his 18-year-old son, Michael, after they took different paths while deer-hunting in New York state. *(AFP)*

Isolation of Moi increases

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi looked increasingly isolated yesterday in resisting moves for democracy in Kenya after a series of speeches at the weekend by administration figures calling on the government to open a dialogue with opposition leaders. Mr Moi again demanded that "foreigners" should cease their pressure.

Since the arrest and subsequent release of 12 members of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy on charges of organising an illegal pro-democracy rally in Nairobi two weeks ago, at least five members of the government have urged Mr Moi to hold talks with the organisation. Mr Moi has hinted Kenya could be a multiparty democracy within three years, and is expected to announce elections for early next year. However, as international pressure mounts for faster reform, members of President Moi's party, the Kenyan African National Union, seem keen to distance themselves from his apparent intransigence.

Most prominent of those who has called for change is Peter Oloo Aringo, the party chairman and minister for manpower planning and employment. He was joined over the weekend by Nahashon Kanyi, a minister in the president's office, Maina Wanjigi, a Nairobi MP, Onyango Midika, minister for regional development, and Geoffrey Kariithi, the assistant minister for tourism and wildlife.

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10.85%	11.6%	£80,000	£715.13
10.60%	11.3%	£100,000	£894.48

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Written quotations available from Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker St, London NW1 6XL.

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T77

Fortress Cuba crumbles

FROM CANDICE HUGHES IN HAVANA

DAY by day, some things grow scarcer and others move more slowly. Factories, shops and stores are silent. Buses, trucks, tractors and trains stand idle.

Torpor seems to grip this communist bastion only 90 miles from Florida. A siege mentality is in evidence, and official rhetoric has taken on an apocalyptic tone since Soviet communism was brought down by the failed coup in August against President Gorbachev. "If they have to kill all the people to crush the revolution, then the people, behind their leaders and their party, will be willing to die," President Castro declared at the end of the Cuban Communist party congress last month.

Many other Cubans wrestle with painful questions raised by the Soviet upheaval. It is a time of profound economic, political and personal crisis seen by some as an opportunity to reinvigorate ideals, redefine Cuban socialism and look beyond Lenin.

"Socialism should always be green, like a palm," said Santiago Pérez, a political scientist at the Centre for American Studies. The key, he and many other party intellectuals believe, is not to lose sight of the humanity at the heart of the Cuban revolution, of commitments such as free health care and education. Others find their convictions thrown into doubt by the sudden death of Lenin's party, an event Dr Castro described as "terrible, incredible, inconceivable." A psychologist told of a professor of marxism-leninism who lay on the couch and wept during therapy after the Soviet coup failed. Values are crumbling, the psychologist said, and personal relationships are fraying.

For many Cubans, the most pressing questions centre on the increasing difficulty of daily life: where to get milk or meat, or catch a bus. Some, especially the young, chafe at a future that seems bleak.

The fall of Soviet communism ended an already dying relationship between President Castro and the Kremlin. It closed 30 years of patronage that supplied his island's ten million people with everything from paper to petroleum. Soviet aid was dwindling and nearly everything had been rationed by the time statues of Lenin began to tumble. Now, nobody knows what will happen.

After the shock of the Soviet coup, many Cubans looked for answers to their party congress, and found none. President Castro quashed the two most hotly debated topics — a more open press and market — and the party endorsed only measures discussed long before the Soviet upheaval.

As Carlos Lage Davila, a politburo member, told the congress: "This special period will oblige every Cuban to define himself. The real revolutionary is firmest in this hour, more convinced, more optimistic. The opportunist is unmasked. The coward drops out or joins the enemy." *(AP)*

Guns mock ceasefire in Croatia

FROM BILL FROST IN BELGRADE

CONTINUED fighting in eastern Croatia yesterday appeared to make a mockery of the ceasefire organised by the United Nations to halt Yugoslavia's civil war. The federal army maintained their bombardment of Osijek with a series of attacks during the small hours.

Sporadic shelling took place for the rest of the day in defiance of the 14th ceasefire. General Milan Pujic, a commander with the Serbian-led federal army, said that Osijek would be taken if its defenders continued to fire on his men. Federal troops also moved against villages to the south of Osijek, tightening their grip on the city and cutting supply lines.

Perhaps in deference to the "ceasefire", fighting was not as intense as before. Most of the clashes were confined to eastern Croatia, with the rest of the war zone reported quiet but tense.

Over the weekend federal forces overran Laslovo, a strategically important village to the south of Osijek. Croat troops, outnumbered and out-gunned, fought a house-to-house battle before conceding defeat.

The fall of Vukovar last week freed thousands of well-equipped federal troops for the battle around Osijek. Serb irregular and territorial units have also been deployed around the city.

General Pujic, assistant secretary for national defence with the Belgrade government, denied last night that federal forces had been responsible for the latest barrage on Osijek. If shells had fallen on the city it was the work of Serbian irregulars, he said.

"We would not sweep over it as we did in Vukovar, but we would be forced to take it. We must protect Serbs in Croatia from genocide, neutralise Croatian fighters and ultimately defeat fascism," he said.

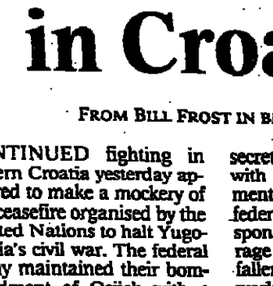
Croat commanders and many military observers in Belgrade believe the federal army will only begin to honour the ceasefire agreement once Osijek has fallen. Even then, the Serbian-led forces are still believed to have territorial ambitions on Vinkovci, a predominantly Croat town to the south.

Living conditions in Osijek are known to have become nightmarish for those who chose to stay and face the bombardment. Many hide in large underground shelters or cellars, rarely venturing above ground. Between protracted bouts of shelling sporadic mortar and rocket attacks make the streets highly dangerous.

Dozens of wounded civilians have been admitted to Osijek's hospital, itself the target of shelling. Staff can hardly cope with each daily influx of casualties as the bombardment continues.

UN and EC mediators are haunted by the prospect of a final assault on Osijek, having seen the destruction and suffering inflicted in Vukovar. But the protagonists are still a long way from laying down their weapons.

German threat, page 1





Family anger: David Morris, left, aged 56, from Romsey, Hampshire, fends off Erasmus di Fava, whose son Thomas was killed by a powerboat the Briton allegedly piloted off Antibes, in the South of France, in 1988. Mr Morris was attending a hearing in Grasse on charges of manslaughter and fleeing the scene

Common ground sought for Maastricht

Kohl plays a careful hand

Though Britain's EC ambassador is on the alert, the December summit is unlikely to see any surprises sprung, George Brock writes from Brussels

AS THE twice-yearly summits of European Community leaders approach, the British ambassador in Brussels lies awake at night worrying about France and Germany. For there is nothing Her Majesty's representative fears more than being ambushed at the last moment by Paris and Bonn.

Sir John Kerr, Britain's man at the EC, must study each dot and comma emerging from Paris and Bonn for clues that his delicate diplomacy might suddenly be wrecked by President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, springing a joint statement on an unsuspecting Europe.

In the spring of 1990, while Mrs Thatcher was enjoying French discomfiture at German unification and dismissing the community's airy-fairy schemes, M Mitterrand and Herr Kohl were writing a joint appeal for closer European integration

The end of those negotiations at Maastricht could still be electrified by a relaunch of the Franco-German partnership which has always dominated the community. But the odds are against such a surprise in the next two weeks. Neither government sounds keen to increase the chances of a rupture with Britain, however disappointed they may sound about British foot-dragging on the road to the EC's "federal goal".

In search of further common ground, the prime minister travels to see Herr Kohl tomorrrow for the second time in a fortnight. The German leader is an experienced player at the poker table of community summits and gives away few clues. But he emphasised that his list of key demands is very different from the British bottom line. He wants the European parliament's veto applied to several important subjects, majority voting installed for foreign policy decisions and immigration policy gradually brought into the EC system. Mr Major will resist all these changes all the way to the summit.

But the chancellor has also gone to some trouble to sound friendly to Britain. He sowed confusion in a French television interview on Sunday by appearing to suggest that an "opt-out clause" could be built into the political union treaty if Britain could not accept what 11 other countries had agreed. He had been asked whether European unity could be better organised without Britain, and had replied vaguely that any country which could not join in on all fronts could catch up later. The next day, Herr Kohl's spokesman confirmed that he had only meant to refer to monetary union — where an escape clause already exists in the draft treaty.

Herr Kohl's repeated refusal to widen divisions set the tone for the interview. People were wrong to talk about a United States of Europe as if comparing it to America, he said: "We will have our own states which will be preserved."

The chancellor denied that there was a contradiction between a Europe of the community and a Europe of nation states: some powers would be transferred, but "we will always stay within the framework of laws of national parliaments."

Diary, page 14
Letters, page 15

Britain rejects curbs

BY GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN yesterday rejected proposed European Community rules and punishments for limiting economic deficits by states joining a future single European currency.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, outlined British objections to the way in which the Dutch draft treaty on monetary union sets ceilings for government deficits for countries which opt to join a monetary union in the late 1990s. He also made progress in ensuring that the rules would only be unenforceable guidelines during the second stage of preparation for currency merger, which is due to start 1994 and which will include Britain.

The monetary union treaty is due to be completed by the EC's Maastricht summit, which is due to finish in a fortnight's time. Yesterday's messy and inconclusive discussion was a technical interlude before a final, three-day debate on the text which the finance ministers will hold early next week.

Mr Lamont, with support from a number of countries, argued that a rule to penalise states which ran a government deficit higher than 3 per cent of gross domestic product might be unworkable.

Half the countries in the EC, he told the meeting, would be under the economic surveillance of the EC Commission and threat of sanctions if that figure was being rigidly applied now. Britain is arguing that a figure around 3 per cent can be used as a benchmark, provided that figures for several years are taken together.

Other ministers also objected to the second deficit rule which would confine governments to keep public debt below 60 per cent of GDP. But the meetings's chairman, Wim Kok, the Dutch finance minister, strongly counter-attacked, saying that suggested revisions would produce "too much flexibility". He was immediately supported by Germany.

Mr Lamont also attacked the proposal in the current draft treaty for fines to be levied on states which persistently break the financial disciplines for the single currency regime, arguing that a European central bank might be unwise to take money from a government which was already having trouble making ends meet.

Kohl grooms an heir

Bonn: Wolfgang Schäuble, paralysed from the waist down after an assassination attempt, took over yesterday as leader of the Christian Democrats in the Bundestag, a job which makes him heir apparent to Helmut Kohl, the party chairman and chancellor (Ian Murray writes).

Now aged 49, Herr Schäuble has long been regarded as the chancellor's personal choice to succeed him. Serious doubts about his ability to do so arose, however, when he was almost killed in October last year by a gunman who fired at him from point-blank range after an election meeting in his Black Forest constituency.

Despite his serious injuries, however, Herr Schäuble was back at his desk running the interior ministry within six weeks. Confined to a wheelchair, he nevertheless maintained a punishing schedule, running one of Germany's most difficult and demanding portfolios.

A member of the Bundestag since 1972, the chancellor spotted his organisational talents in 1984, when he was brought into the private office to take the everyday burdens of detailed planning off Herr Kohl's back, pleasing the chancellor by dealing efficiently but quietly with delicate problems.

Poll swing

Brescia: A local autonomy movement, the Lombard League, jolted the supremacy of Italy's Christian Democratic party here by gaining 24.03 per cent of the vote in local elections, seen as an opinion barometer. *(Reuter)*

Trawler lost

Rome: Storms hit Italy over the weekend, causing widespread damage and loss of life. A 144-tonne fishing trawler with nine men on board was missing off the Sicilian coast.

Toreador dies

Nimes: Nimeno II, aged 37, the best-known bullfighter in France, committed suicide at home two years after a bull seriously wounded him in the ring and ended his career, his family said. *(Reuter)*

Sperm tests

Paris: France decided to make tests for Aids compulsory in all sperm donations, Bruno Durieux, the health minister, said. Testing of donor blood and organs is already compulsory. *(AFP)*

Tajiks attack poll win

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

ONE of Central Asia's old-guard communist power brokers claimed a clear victory yesterday in elections to the presidency of Soviet Tajikistan, prompting his main opponent — a liberal film-maker who also enjoyed Muslim backing — to allege widespread malpractice.

Officials said nearly 60 per cent of the voters in the territory near the border with Afghanistan and China had voted for Rakhmon Nabiyev, aged 61, who served as head of the Communist party until 1985 before falling foul of Mikhail Gorbachev, who had recently been appointed general secretary. Mr Nabiyev was proclaimed chairman of the local parliament this September when conservative legislators, bucking the trend in the rest of the country, temporarily reversed a ban on the Communist party and tried to reassert its authority.

Davlat Khudonazarov, aged 47, the distinguished film director who was credited by official results with second place and just over 25 per cent of the votes, said the leadership was guilty of "falsification and manipulation" of the electoral returns. Mr Khudonazarov, the president of the Soviet Cinematographers' Union, said his campaign workers had extensive evidence in photographs and video film of ballot papers being handed out improperly and of citizens being lobbied illegally at polling stations.

The film-maker, who was backed by a broad coalition of opposition forces ranging from secular reformists to Muslim clerics, said all political forces should work together to ward off a new threat from totalitarianism. Mr Nabiyev, making a remarkable comeback after losing office six years ago and then being officially rebuked over a housing scandal, sought to draw on the nostalgia of older people for the "stability" of the communist regime when living standards were low but guaranteed.

The dispute over the election result could lead to further unrest in a republic whose capital, Dushanbe, has been shaken by two waves of demonstrations in as many years. The Tajiks, a Persian-speaking people surrounded by Turkic nations, like the Uzbeks and Kazakhs, have long feared their republic could be a flashpoint in a disintegrating Soviet Union.

Two polls confuse Tiraspol

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN TIRASPOL

FEARS are growing that Moldavia will become the Soviet Union's next ethnic battlefield as the republic's Romanian-speaking majority and its Slav minority hold separate, rival elections.

Political leaders in this staunchly pro-Soviet industrial city, dominated by ethnic Russians and Ukrainians, allege that the Moldavian leadership is preparing to coerce them into unity with Romania after a republican ballot on December 8.

To pre-empt that poll, the self-proclaimed Slav republic of "Transdniestria" — which occupies a thin strip of land around Tiraspol — has scheduled its own elections for next Sunday. "We hope for a political solution to our problems but we are prepared for the worst," said Vyacheslav Zagredsky, deputy chairman of the "parliament" of the breakaway Slav territory, which claims 55 per cent of the Moldavian economy.

There is still confusion, however, about the future of this "republic": as a fully sovereign state, as a constituent part of a new Soviet confederation, as part of the Ukraine or as part of a ramshackle arrangement of the small Soviet regions which recently sent delegates to a conference in Tiraspol. But most people in the city are certain that they do not want unity with Romania.



Super-spy suspect: Gabrielle Gast, a specialist on the Soviet Union for West Germany's intelligence service, who is accused of betraying secrets to East Germany for 22 years, outside Munich court yesterday as her trial began. Frau Gast, aged 48, was said to be one of East Germany's most valuable agents, codenamed "Gisela" (AP reports). She allegedly met the East German spy chief, Markus Wolf, seven times as she rose in the West German federal intelligence service to be deputy director of the Soviet desk. Frau Gast was arrested three days before East and West Germany united in October 1990. She was charged with passing secrets to East German agents. Her trial in the higher regional court in Munich is expected to last until mid-December.

Paris economises with the truth

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TO JUDGE by opinion polls, the average French voter today considers the prevailing standard of integrity among the nation's political establishment as roughly comparable to that among itinerant horse-dealers.

Very few will have heard of the Commission pour la Transparence Financière de la Vie Politique, and would probably laugh if the mission of this worthy institution — to throw light on the financial affairs of politicians — was explained to them.

Yet that is just what the commission, set up three years ago, is supposed to do: keep an eye on the finances of France's most senior elected officials from the president, the prime minister and members of the government to the mayors of the ten largest cities and other senior local government figures.

All of them must submit an annual declaration of personal assets. They must open share portfolios and bank accounts to scrutiny and list their inheritances. How well the system works is another matter, since everything submitted is kept strictly confidential. Only President Mitterrand's statement is for publication.

What is known, thanks to the newspaper *France-Soir*, is that 82 declarations were received this time round. More than 60 of them came from ministers serving under Michel Rocard or Edith Cresson, his successor as prime minister. As in previous years, the commission's bureaucrats are either deluged with information — pages of data listing ownership of secondhand bicycles and the estimated market price of trinkets and souvenirs — or receive a single sheet of paper containing some fairly elementary arithmetic.

For a splendid second home or a spare limousine to be "overlooked" is not unheard of, and the commission has the power to come back for more information when it suspects, in *France-Soir*'s delicate phrase, "sins due to an excess of modesty".

On paper, anyone, including ministers, who exhausts the commission's patience, officially limited to one month, could be disqualified from office.

This has never happened, and any such enforcement of the rules at senior level would astound the world of politics. As the French version of "when pigs fly" goes: do not expect anything like that "until hens have teeth".

Belgian far right stirs memory of 1930s

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

WILFRIED Martens, the Belgian prime minister, agreed to head a caretaker government yesterday after the weekend's election results showed widespread support for an anti-immigration party and environmentalists.

Mr Martens, Europe's longest-serving prime minister, submitted his resignation but soon reappeared to lead the long search for the next workable coalition. Last time, in 1987, that took him more than three months. With tough negotiations ahead this time, Mr Martens's once-dominant Flemish Christian Democrat party said it was not its responsibility to resolve the difficulties.

He has been in power for all but eight months of the past 12 years and is the man behind the centre coalitions which command the few levers of power still left in state hands by Belgium's decentralised political system. He has run so many cabinets that they are labelled with Roman numerals: the last one was known as "Martens IX".

But on Sunday, voters opted in large numbers for less conventional figures such as Jean-Pierre van Rossem, who leads a Flemish splinter group variously described as Poujadist, anarchist or racist. He was elected as MP for Antwerp while in jail on suspicion of fraud.

The rise of the extreme right in Antwerp, the main city and port of the northern Dutch-speaking region, led astonished politicians to ask yesterday if they were not living through 1936 again. The Belgian election of that year, held in the shadow of Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland, saw fascist parties make big gains in both the Flemish and French halves of the country.

Willy Claes, the deputy prime minister, comparing the 1990s to the 1930s, called Sunday's poll a "black day". One writer in the Brussels daily *Le Soir* lamented that Antwerp was now joining Marseilles, Vienna and Bremen on the list of European cities which have seen revivals of the far right, which has profited from dislike of immigrants from North Africa and Eastern Europe.

Between a fifth and a quarter of Antwerp's voters backed the Vlaams Blok, an unashamedly racist Flemish party whose campaign literature would be illegal in Britain. Cartoon strip leaflets draw lurid nightmares of cities dominated by mosques, invaded by black and Arab drug addicts and muggers, pinning the blame on the established parties.

The centre parties have caught the mood. The candidate for the Liberal party who stood for the area of Brussels next to the headquarters of the European Commission distributed cartoons of an African woman being advised how to work the social security slot-machine by a man in a turban. Parties of both right and left lost ground — socialists doing worse than Christian Democrats. Only the Flemish ultra-nationalists and green groups gained ground.

The five parties of both left and right which formed the last coalition still hold a majority in the parliament. But they will be hard put to command the two-thirds majority necessary to push through the latest round of constitutional reform, which aims to transfer yet more power to the regions. One newspaper yesterday predicted that the election was the beginning of a "long crisis".

Despite these difficulties, Mr Martens will preside today at a meeting of the European Community's six Christian Democrat leaders to discuss their tactics for the Maastricht summit.

Leading article, page 15

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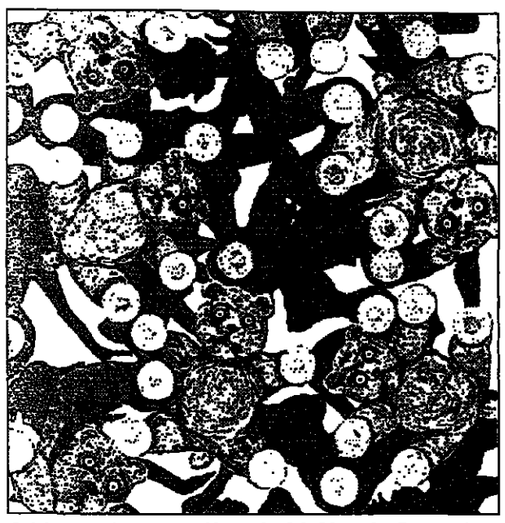
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Time for the public to judge our voyages of discovery



Critic's choice: *Honk if you had it No 1*, by Laura Ford

John Russell Taylor reveals how he and his co-selectors resolved to flaunt their differences when choosing this year's Discerning Eye exhibition

Most critics have, at some time or other, given heartfelt endorsement to the time-honoured cry: "How do I know what I think till I read what I've written?" For people in the art world, that can often be adapted to: "How do I know what I like till I see what I've selected?"

Now about to launch its second annual foray, The Discerning Eye (which opens to the public at the *Mall Galleries on Friday) is a clear* case in point. The show is selected by six individuals: two collectors, two artists and two critics. And this *really* means six individuals, not a committee of six: the selectors finally act in concert only to choose the prize-winners for the concurrent *Evening Standard* New Discovery Art Prize. The selectors each invite artists of their choice (who may or may not be "new discoveries") to make up about three-quarters of their selection, and pick the other quarter from the open submission for the prize.

This unique selection routine leaves the selectors unusually unprotected by the cloak of anonymity that any group decision provides. Happily unprotected, I would say: since I was one of the two critics this year (the other being Tim *Hilton of The Guardian*) I can testify that none of us seemed to feel any qualms about exposing the oddities and limitations of our taste to public gaze. The exhibition itself is hung selector by selector, so that there is no fudging which selector is responsible for the presence of which art.

Everyone on the team appeared to come with strong views and few preconceptions. The final choice looks like what it was: a voyage of discovery on the part of each, not only into the art of today, but into his or her own psyche. The pairs could hardly be more contrasted. The two artists were the colourful abstractionist Gillian Ayres and the sober traditionalist William Bowyer; the collectors were Lord Gowrie, whose interests are firmly in the "thingyness" and self-sufficiency of art, and Sir Brinsley Ford, who is in his eighties. He disarmingly told the story of an elderly collector who told him she had bought all her really innovative works before she was 25, because "after that age you lose your eye," and then went on to prove that he is still as tuned-in as anybody to what the youngest artists are doing today.

Probably the one thought we all had in common was: "I'll know it when I see it". The open submission works were paraded before us as in a Royal Academy selection, and anything anyone liked was retained for consideration. There was a lot of dross, of course; but it was noticeable that, however disparate our tastes might be, every now and then an (unidentified) artist would come up who had us all immediately on our feet for a closer look. Frequently more than one selector would suggest retention, and in the final choice there was virtually a bidding process for some pictures, though all rival claims were finally resolved without rancour.

The selectors' comments in the catalogue are often revealing, in that they all come after the event, and detail really what we found out about ourselves doing the selection. Gillian Ayres writes that she enjoys "art which shows an awareness of Matisse's existence"; Lord Gowrie finds he goes for tactility; William Bowyer responds to a sense of continuity and contribution to British life; Sir Brinsley Ford regrets a lack of interesting sculpture or drawing in the submission; Tim Hilton likes artists who "sing their own songs," whatever the song may be; and I find that I have been drawn particularly to art which seems to reflect some sort of parallel reality, the reality of dreams and vision.

Of course, visitors are free to conclude that any or all of the selectors are tasteless and may be demented. Some no doubt will. But that is a large part of the fun. At least there is nothing here that is merely flat, anonymous and dull. From the oldest exhibitor, Richard Eurich (88), to the many new discoveries still in their early twenties, they all set out with a will to do it their way.

The Discerning Eye is at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1 (071-930 6844) daily 10am to 5pm from Friday to December 7.

DANCE

Hitting heights, jumping for joy

As Paul Taylor's troupe prepares to visit London, the man who made modern dance accessible talks to Debra Craine

Like his choreography, Paul Taylor is a study in opposites: a powerful physique and a fragile nature, a quick mind and a slow delivery, a sunny smile and a dark heart. Here is the man who makes dances of athleticism and ethereality, punch and poignancy, ecstasy and elegy. He is also the most popular modern dance choreographer in the world.

For the past 36 years he has had his own company which has performed in 300 cities in the United States and made more than 40 overseas tours to more than 50 countries, the latest of which brings his troupe to Sadler's Wells next week. He has choreographed over 90 dances for his own company, while his works are in the repertoires of more than 20 ballet and contemporary companies around the world, including four in Britain.

No other modern dance choreographer has enjoyed the kind of exposure Paul Taylor has. "I am very happy for ballet companies to do my work," he says. "I feel so lucky that the work can be seen so often and by so many people in so many places. It's never happened in modern dance before to this degree, and I feel very fortunate."

Luck has nothing to do with it. His dances sell themselves through the universal appeal of their passion, joy and accessibility. From the lyrical beauty of *Airs* and the exhilarating simplicity of *Esplanade*, to the sinister repression of *Speaking in Tongues*, a Taylor dance is rarely obscure, always emotional and with a spontaneous appeal to both head and heart.

Whether he is exploring human relationships and social concerns or indulging his occasional desire to laugh at the world, abstraction is never his theme, even when pure dance is. "I don't believe there is such a thing as pure abstraction in dance as long as human beings are dancing. Naturally we relate to them as human beings so every movement seems to imply some kind of gesture or posture. And unless you're in a bag or something, it's very hard to be an abstract shape.

"I believe in the notion that dance should be passionate. I don't mean emote all over the stage but I think if a dancer isn't passionate then the audience is gypped. There are so many passions. You can even be passionate about being serene."



'I believe in the notion that dance must be passionate. You can even be passionate about being serene.'

Despite his longevity as a dancemaker, Taylor's record continues to be impressive. His recent *Company B*, with its bittersweet images of war and patriotism set to the songs of the Andrews Sisters, has proved to be his biggest hit in a decade, bringing him critical as well as box-office acclaim in America this year. "I am getting better and better every day as a choreographer," he laughs — with only a trace of modesty. "But seriously, you never know. Sometimes you work very hard, you think it's just terrific, and no one seems to get it at all. Other times you just dash something off and that's the very one that people seem to go for."

His success has made him virtually unassailable and given him licence to flow free with his outspoken opinions, then sit back and enjoy the resulting ripples. For example: despite the suitability of his work for ballet companies, Taylor claims to "loathe" ballet. "It seems very stupid to me. I was offered a chance to become a ballet dancer by Balanchine but I just couldn't do it." His contemporary, Merce Cunningham, is also dismissed: "His dances stink. They are really boring. If male ballet dancers look like fruits, Merce dancers look like sticks." And Fred Astaire? "He's a wimp."

Taylor's own dancers are, of course, solid and strong, although they temper their athletic prowess with lyricism and humour. "We are trained to have incredible stomach, back and torso muscles," he says. "We even jump from lying on our backs without using our hands or our feet and levitate from the back movement off the floor. That's something ballet dancers simply cannot do."

For Taylor, dancing means optimum living. "What we have on stage are super people. Their moments are often extreme, highlighted, vivid and compressed, and that's what dance should be. Those moments of performing feel so very much alive and there's nothing in everyday life that compares. Dance is fun: people can relate to that. It makes them feel good."

Feeling good, though, has not come easily to the 61-year-old choreographer. As he charted in his 1987 autobiography, *Private Domain*, Taylor has suffered both emotional and physical distress. Born in Pennsylvania and raised in Washington, DC, he had a solitary childhood, the product of a fatherless home and an absent mother. "I had no family as such really. It was a lonely childhood but I didn't know that until I had to go through it all again to write the book. I was sort of an accident and I was inconvenient to have but it never seemed unhappy to me."

Still, the early feelings of vulnerability eventually became part of his work, first as a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company in the Fifties, later when he struck out on his own as a dancer and choreographer. "The issues I try to deal with are international and timeless but they are born out of my own experience: solitude, injustice, being an outsider. I try to stick to feelings and passions that I've felt."



Athleticism and ethereality: Paul Taylor Dance Company in his religious drama, *Speaking in Tongues*

His subsequent depression, physical illness and attempted suicide brought him even closer to the dark side which haunts much of his work. "At least three times I came close to death. I've been over the edge into what I think is dead and I have come back. Once or twice through illness and once or twice through crises. I don't believe anything is 100 per cent. There is always a different side to it, a light side and a dark side. My dances come out like that without much effort on my part."

Today, having given up both performing and regular touring, Taylor appears to have found some kind of spiritual peace, along with a material comfort that means "I'm not starving to death anymore and I have a wonderful place to live. I am happier now."

From the picture windows in his rustic Long Island home he can look out over the trees leading down to his private beach. "My work is just second best," he drawls, pointing out to the water. "All art is just second best to nature. Look at the difference between a painting of a tree and a real tree. The painting is more practical, you can hang it on your wall and it can remind you of a tree. But nature is best and all artists do is steal. We look at a tree and think 'I'll make one of those'. But it's never as good."

The Paul Taylor Dance Company opens a two-week season at Sadler's Wells (071-278 8916) on December 3.

BRIEFING

Well off the wall

MUCH hot air continues to be vented over the murals decorating Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall. The original murals, by Ian McCulloch, were rejected last year by Glasgow city council's Labour leader, Pat Lally. They only remain *in situ* in the new hall because of an interdict (Scottish equivalent of an injunction) granted in favour of Strathclyde Region which originally commissioned them. Then, last month, the young Scottish artist Peter Howson renounced a £50,000 Scottish Amicable commission to paint replacement murals, after intense pressure from Scotland's art community. Now, to Lally's chagrin, McCullogh's original work has been shortlisted for the Saltire Society's Art in Architecture Award.

All fired up

RARELY can so much talent have met in a fire station. A new Stephen Sondheim "compilation" musical, called *Putting it Together*, will begin life in January at Oxford's Old Fire Station, which was converted by the producer Cameron Mackintosh into a studio theatre for trying out new musicals last January. Julia McKenzie is to direct, Jasper Conran will design set and costumes, and Mackintosh himself will produce. Sondheim was, of course, the first Cameron Mackintosh professor of musical drama at Oxford University.

Packed stalls

CINEMA attendances in Britain rose by 19 per cent to 25.9 million during the third quarter of the year, making the figure for the first nine months of the year the highest since 1980. Cinema attendances for all of 1991 are set to top 100 million. The figures are estimated by the Cinema Advertisers' Association and do not take into account attendances at cinemas that do not show advertising.

Last chance...

AMERICAN painter Richard Diebenkorn has gained most of his fame for his long series of *Ocean Park* paintings. The last opportunity to see these pale abstractions, vividly evoking the geometrical roofs and smog-diffused light of southern California, is on Sunday at London's Whitechapel Gallery (071-377 0107).

ARTS REVIEWS
Radio, Television, Theatre, Music
Page 18

Prudential Awards for the Arts

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SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Prudential Award for Music 1991 goes to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for its commitment to education in the local community and its commissioning of new work

PRUDENTIAL

RECORDS: WAGNER OPERA

Ring for the power players

THE ONE triumphant feature of the recent Royal Opera *Ring* was the conducting of Bernard Haitink, and it is good to find the same power in his recording of **Siegfried**, swinging an immense musical force at each moment of the score. Haitink finds Wagner's weight to be not symphonic but essentially dramatic: there is a lot of sudden and characterful playing here, often very like *what was heard at* Covent Garden in terms of pacing and gesture. If there is also great consistency, it is a consistency of intensity.

Among the cast, the chief blessing is of course the Siegfried of Siegfried Jerusalem, in golden voice, sounding immediate and youthful. As Brünnhilde in the closing duet, Eva Marton has to take a little more care of herself but this, too, is a big performance. There is also a very exciting Mime in Peter Haage, who does not encrust the part with vocal scabs but allows it a lyrical freshness and freedom, ensuring that the dwarf's intentions come through in the undercurrents. This is appropriate, given what happens in Act II's Siegfried-Mime scene; it also helpfully conveys a creature more foolish than evil.

Wagner: Siegfried. Soloists, Bavarian Radio SO/Haitink. EMI CDS 7 54290 2 (four CDs)
Wagner: Götterdämmerung. Metropolitan Opera/Levine. DG 429 385-2 (four CDs)
Wagner: Parsifal. Soloists, Berlin PO/Barenboim. Teldec/Warner 9031 74448-2 (four CDs)

James Morris as the Wanderer projects splendour and authority but, as usual, not much of the text. There are also a couple of surprising guest appearances: from Kiri Te Kanawa as the Woodbird, and from Theo Adam, graduating after all these years (which rather tell in the vibrato) from Wotan to Alberich.

The **Götterdämmerung** of this cycle will be keenly awaited: meanwhile Levine's can be recommended for its superb orchestral and choral sound, and for several stimulating solo performances, but sadly not for its central casting. Though the driving passion in Hildegard Behrens's Brünnhilde is unmistakeable, so too is the ravaging her voice has suffered, and Reiner Goldberg as Siegfried sounds to have been scarred and aged by the fray too. Neither of them is particularly well accommodated by Levine's slow tempos, necessary as these are to the gorgeousness he unfolds.

The Norns have some similar trouble, though Andrea Gruber makes a striking and brilliant impression as the youngest of the ancients. Excellent too, with a sombre determination and musical fullness in everything he does, is Matti Salminen as Hagen, contrasting with the bleaker tone of Ekkehard Wlaschiha, justifiably everyone's first choice currently as Alberich. Cheryl Studer, who seems to be everyone's first choice for almost everything at the moment, is a very bright, winning Gutrune.

The **Parsifal** under Barenboim again has Siegfried Jerusalem, sounding perhaps even more wonderful than as Siegfried for Haitink. The rest of the cast is pretty special too: Waltraud Meier repeating her astonishing Kundry, José van Dam as an Amfortas whose suffering is engraved in his voice, Günter von Kannen as Klingsor, and John Tomlinson, no less, sonorous as Titurel.

Matthias Hölle could make more of the words as Gurnemanz, or perhaps it is just that he sounds a bit young and underweight for the part. But what most keeps this performance stuck at base is a lack of range, even a lack of credibility, in Barenboim's handling of the orchestra.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

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Where have the flowers gone?

Floral prints made Laura Ashley famous. Now a new collection introduces a note of urban chic. Brenda Polan reports



Short and sharp: left: high-waisted flannel jacket. Right: cardigan, bobble-collar tunic and cycling shorts



Bodyline: a grey, black and cream wool tartan throw, over a ribbed body, with the grey flannel kilt from Laura Ashley's new capsule collection

In 1968 when the first Laura Ashley shop opened in South Kensington, its manageress would often have to lock customers out on the pavement. There they would queue restlessly until the crowd of women inside had dispersed a little.

Then, one by one, they would plunge into the rail-rifling throng and, too impatient to wait for an empty changing room, they would strip off in the middle of the shop and start trying on the tucked and ruffled, voluminous flower-print granny dresses which were the hottest thing in fashion. Since many of them were already wearing a Laura Ashley frock when they arrived and since they often forgot, in the thrill of the scrimmage, where they had shed it, customers were always trying to buy each other's clothes. The desperate cry, "Who's stolen my frock?" was commonplace.

Few new fashion companies have enjoyed that kind of success. Few new fashion companies have judged their product and their moment so perfectly. In the 1960s, swingers embraced archaic and ethnic dress as part of their peace and love, drop-out, roll-up and tune-in philosophy.

The late Laura Ashley saw it in more artlessly domestic terms. "I sensed," she said later, "that most people wanted to raise families, have gardens and live life as nicely as they can. You could equate the company with a first-class nanny in a *fin de siècle* nursery. Innocence, discipline, high standards and, above all, a kind of scrubbed, simple beauty."

Whatever captured it, Laura Ashley's moment was a long time passing. But, as far as fashion was concerned, pass it did.

However, for a surprisingly large number of women, predominantly the kind you meet in Oxford senior common rooms and at country house parties, the moment has not passed yet. So whenever the company talks about updating its image or its product, a *frisson* of alarm runs through the fashion world. Can the company seduce the young and fashionable through its doors without alienating its timid, floral-frock devoted core customers?

"*Timid?*" exclaims Jaine McCormack, the company's design controller. "It's not timid to dress yourself from head to toe in a Laura Ashley floral print, especially when it is not supposed to be in fashion. It is actually making a bold statement about yourself.

"These are customers who have found their style and intend to stick with it, whatever fashion magazines might tell them. The three key words which we bear in mind when developing collections are feminine, colourful and rural. I think rural associations are an important factor not just in the taste of the British, but in a worldwide preference for what is thought of as British style."

There is nothing rural or particularly colourful about the new experimental collection which Laura Ashley has just introduced. It is, however, feminine.

New Classics is a capsule collection consisting of grey or clove brown separates in wool jersey, an A-line mini dress (£29.95), cycling shorts (£32.95), long cardigan (£49.95) and tunic top (£44.95), lean and body-skimming rather than body-hugging: neat ribbed wool bodies (£44.95); a grey flannel short kilt (£75) with a long, high-waisted matching jacket (£105); ski pants (£24.95) and a red bouclé tweed suit with a short fitted jacket (£120) and a short skirt (£49.95).

Nick Ashley is technically the design director of the company founded by his parents but prefers to think of himself as "conceptor", a kind of design theorist. Ms McCormack, he says, more nearly fulfils the role of design director. It was Mr Ashley who addressed the problem of moving the company forward to attract a young customer, while taking care not to frighten the core customer who, he says, "wants floral frocks".

Laura Ashley, he is certain, cannot abandon its own tradition. "My theory (and there are many others) is that people outside Britain associate us with a way of life which is cosy and warm, with a funny old hierarchical system, a unique system of class which produced stability," he says.

"Nor are the British very urban in their taste. So what we have to do is update that classic look with wit and humour. For the jersey pieces, for instance, I thought about updating the twinset and pearls. The pearls are wool bobbles sewn around the neckline; the twinset is lean and long and looks wonderful over cycling shorts, leggings or ski pants."

The collection, he says, is selling quite well so far. The Ashley challenge will be to get the younger, more urban-style dresser over the threshold. In the Regent Street shop last week there were many middle-aged and even elderly women looking for replacements for the familiar Laura Ashley clothes they were wearing, and many fresh-faced teenagers from boarding schools trying on velvet and taffeta party dresses. The be-leggined sharp dressers were up the road in Top Shop, Miss Selfridge and Oasis.

If they can be tempted through Ashley's doors, the sharp dressers will like the capsule collection. At the price, it is excellent quality merchandise. But then, Laura Ashley herself put great importance on value for money and her down-to-earth horror of "excessive profit" often resulted in dangerously slender margins.

Her son is sincere when he says: "It's her name on the company, not mine. She knew her customers relied on the Laura Ashley name to mean good, natural fabrics, English styling and a good, honest price." When you have a heritage like that, it is not sentiment but good sense which compels you to stick with it if you can.

Since yesterday *The Times* has had a new typeface, Times Millennium. But do the experts think it is a success?

Words that are music to the eyes

Yesterday *The Times* changed to a new typeface. Readers who missed the articles proclaiming the change may not even have noticed. Type, and the differences between typefaces, are one of the most esoteric areas of design.

Discussing type with a typographer is a little like discussing wine with a wine buff. Typographers talk about the "mood" of a typeface. They will say that one typeface has a more "robust colour" than another, even though both are composed of the usual black marks on white paper. And they will unhesitatingly pass judgment. "Times Roman has earned the stature in the typographic spectrum", wrote Allan Haley in a recent book, *ABC's Of Type*. "It is versatile, it is legible, and it is an excellent communicator. And, even more ... Times Roman is also beautiful."



Edwin Taylor: Embarrassed



Simon Esterson: Impressed

As Times readers will be aware, Times Roman was designed especially for *The Times* by Stanley Morison, going on to become one of the world's most popular typefaces. Introduced in 1932, it was finally supplanted yesterday by Times Millennium — the typeface you are now reading. But from 1972 to 1981 *The Times* used a typeface called Times Europa.

The man responsible for the design of Times Europa in 1972 was Walter Tracy, a typographer who was for nearly 30 years in charge of typeface development at Linotype. Times Europa was designed to solve problems caused by the hot metal printing process. Less than ten years later, hot metal had been replaced by photo typesetting, and the problems no longer existed. By 1981 the paper reverted to Times Roman.

What does Mr Tracy think of Times Millennium? "I'm disappointed," he says. "I had hoped to see something new and distinct, not just a remodelling." Mr Tracy feels, for instance, that the shortened ascenders and descenders the vertical strokes on the letters "d" or "p", reduce the white space between the lines, making the text more difficult to read.

Other designers are more enthusiastic. Simon Esterson of Esterson Lackersteen is an editorial designer who worked with David Driver. *The Times* head of design, on the design of *The Times*'s award-winning Saturday Review. "For *The Times*'s purposes, the new typeface is a huge improvement," Mr Esterson says. "Although Times Roman was a great English language typeface, the bold was never successful. The new face gives it a greatly expanded use."

Mr Esterson believes that Times Millennium will quickly become one of the four or five great working typefaces of the late 20th century. "The new typeface extends the range of Roman, and will be good enough for computer laser printers."

Not everyone sees Millennium's potential ubiquity as an advantage. Paul Luna is a typographer at Oxford University Press, and the designer of the Oxford English Dictionary. "It is a pity that Times Roman became a 'default' typeface," he says. "It is on every laser printer — and that is a disadvantage. The Times has got to get back to its own typeface."

As for Millennium, Mr Luna believes that it is the typeface that is needed to type *The Times* now. Whether it will go on to be a classic remains to be seen.

Several designers criticise the spacing of the letters, and the lack of clear distinction in "colour" (the weight of the type) in headlines. Edwin Taylor, who was design editor of *The Sunday Times* for 15 years, points to the headline of the Editor's article yesterday, announcing the change: 'New types, new faces'. "It's almost embarrassing that the headline should lead that story," he says. "There is far too much space between each letter." Mr Driver says that the spacing of headline characters will improve with adjustment over the next few weeks.

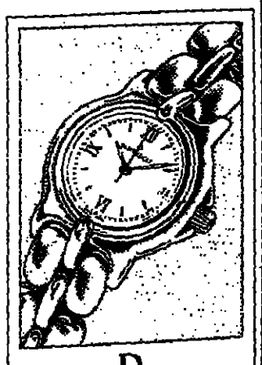
Almost everyone agrees that the typeface at normal text size is a success. "In musical terms, it strikes a nice continuing note across a line," Mr Taylor says. Shelley Winter, who worked on designing *The Daily Telegraph*'s heading typeface, says: "The letters appear much cleaner: they appear to be etched into the page."

Times Millennium has been introduced partly in response to the new demands of computerised digital typesetting. Is there a danger that digital typesetting will also be obsolete in ten years' time? "No," says Mr Driver. "We devised this typeface for the computer. It's not possible it could become obsolete."

In his classic, five-volume *Editing and Design*, published between 1972 and 1977 Harold Evans, a former editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, said: "The millennium has not yet arrived. Newspaper design will continue to evolve."

Well, the Millennium has arrived. Other designers may have their doubts, but Mr Driver and his team believe that it will be some time before *The Times* typeface needs to evolve again.

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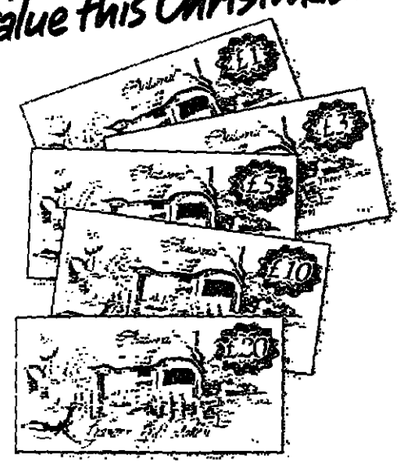
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Simply wrong about Europe

Mrs Thatcher is not thinking straight says former adviser Michael Butler

Mrs Thatcher sent me to Brussels in 1979. I worked, perhaps slaved would be a better word, for her for six years. Thanks to her courage and persistence, we finally won the great budget battle at Fontainebleau in 1984, after a five year campaign. I supported and admired her, even if the way her mind worked sometimes seemed bizarre. Since I left the government's service in October 1985, in the middle of the negotiations on the Single European Act, I have seldom criticised her in public. But now I must add my voice to the chorus of criticism.

From the beginning, in all the innumerable meetings and discussions with her ministers and officials, she showed a deep-seated prejudice against the European Community. Many of her friends in the Conservative party were the anti-marketeers of the early 1970s. Mr Heath's position on the back benches — which sometimes seemed to be "back the Community: right or wrong" — pushed her the other way. Yet her reason often overcame her prejudices. I remember, for example, the Stuttgart European Council in June 1983, when she argued until 3am against the proposed declaration on the future of the Community. Then, far from exhausted, she said: "All right, you draft something and we'll look at it at breakfast." At 6.30, there she was, fresh as a daisy, every hair in place and without a prejudice in sight. She went off with the full support of her team, and after several gruelling hours of negotiation the Stuttgart Declaration was agreed.



Sir Michael: battling against prejudice

But when she returned to Downing Street her prejudices always reasserted themselves. In this endless battle, her ministers and officials had to be ever vigilant to remind her of the reasonable positions she had herself taken. Intellectual ground gained was never held. She had more than a tendency, a downright habit, of forgetting the concessions she had herself made to other European heads of government, or of blaming them on her advisers.

Intellectually, she knew that in EC negotiations even she could not win all the time and that compromise was needed. I believe that she understood the EC perfectly well. At Milan in the summer of 1985, the Italians had outmanoeuvred her and called the intergovernmental conference by a majority vote. She did not welcome the exercise, but her reason told her that an agreement would, on the whole, be in our interests. And so at Luxembourg in December she agreed to allow majority voting over the whole huge field of single-market legislation, to bring the environment, research and development and regional policy into the EC Treaty and to give the European Parliament its first legislative powers.

Now that the budget issue was settled, I even thought, for a short while, that in future she might perhaps consistently take a moderate and constructive attitude to European issues. It was not to be. After winning her third election in 1987, her prejudices seemed to gain ground. Discussions with her ministers and officials became less and less frequent. In 1988, she made the famous Bruges speech, which was perhaps the most misleading political manifesto of the decade. She said there was a choice: on the one hand, cooperation between wholly independent sovereign nations, on the other a quasi-socialist federation.

It was a false bill of sale. Neither of these options was on the table. The Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act and all the EC legislation of the last 30 years had taken us far beyond the first. The single-market programme and the competition rules of the EC were ensuring that socialism could never prevail, even if silly ideas about a social charter could still, rightly, raise Conservative hackles. And as for a federation, does anyone on the continent really want it? Or do they just want to talk about it?

Reason had one or two more flickering moments of victory over prejudice, when at the Madrid European Council in June 1989 she committed herself conditionally to joining the exchange-rate mechanism, and agreed that heads of government were determined to achieve the progressive realisation of monetary union; and again in June 1990, when she approved the "hard ecu" plan. But even then she did not use the formula she had herself approved — that the ecu could one day become a single currency if the peoples and governments so wished — until she reported to Parliament more than four months later, on her return from the disastrous Rome summit.

It seemed to me that she had at last taken her wishes for reality, and had come to the erroneous conclusion that a ferocious anti-market stance would be good politics at home. Now that she is out of office, partly because of the European issue, she has gone too far. She does not even seem to respect Mr Major's responsible effort to act as she once did, to get a settlement at Maastricht in accordance with British interests.

If Mrs Thatcher were to let her reason reign again for a moment, she would see that there will be very little substance at Maastricht, indeed much less than in the Single European Act. Even the EMU treaty will cause nothing much to happen during the next British parliament. I do not believe for a moment that our partners will want to hand over the monetary policy of the EC to an untried European system of central banks in 1997. But if they do and Mrs Thatcher is still active in the Lords in the next parliament but one, that will be the time for her to agitate for a referendum.

Sir Michael Butler was Britain's ambassador to the EC, 1979-85.

Janet Daley argues that prejudice and misogyny doom feminism to failure

Women's lost cause

I once reduced the American feminist Naomi Wolf nearly to tears by telling her that I could not join the women's movement because I had given up hope. It was not that I didn't believe there were obvious injustices, but that I thought the prospects of women ever winning were nil. To borrow a catchphrase from the non-Marxist left, I agreed with the analysis but rejected the programme. No amount of legislation, consciousness-raising or self-help was going to change the power balance between men and women.

Now we are being inundated with punditry on the great backlash against feminism. Injured males fill the fashionable comment pages with diatribes about their humiliation at the hands of triumphalist females. Occasionally they are supported by women who are either recanting their militant past or joining in a chorus of I-told-you-so about the dangers they always felt would loom if women got above themselves. Things have gone too far, they mutter ominously, and it is women who will pay the price if the warning signs are unheeded.

Gone too far? I was scarcely aware that things had gone anywhere. Significantly, whenever these Cassandras want to find dire examples of feminist thought-control and conspiracy against men, they resort to American anecdotes. The United States, notoriously, has gone completely mad about political correctness. But Americans are naturally inclined to intellectual authoritarianism, and when dogma combines with sanctimoniousness, the voice of reason does not stand a chance. Britain, not much given to either hysterical mood swings or abstract social theory, just sniggers voyeuristically.

Well, you might argue, there has been some progress: at least we have begun to take domestic violence seriously. But among the disillusioned, there are even those who protest at making marital rape a crime. To do so, they claim, traduces the act of married love. Even allowing for smug suburban certainties, the naïvete here is staggering. In the murky corners where women are threatened and sex is a form of brutality, love of any kind scarcely comes into it.

Even in the area which seemed most amenable to lawmaking, the workplace, life goes on remarkably unchanged. True, we passed a Sex Discrimination Act which had universal, self-congratulatory support. And yet we have still not succeeded in guaranteeing women equal pay for equal work. For all the bluster from women and the carping from men, there are only miniscule numbers of women at the higher levels of management and the professions. (Thankfully, really contentious measures, such as positive discrimination, have not caught on here, but to listen to the lads shrieking, you would think they had been adopted across the board.) Seventeen years after legislation for equality on promotion prospects, women are still drawing the short straw. Only now, the men have a defensive smirk about stroppy feminists as they run roughshod over their female colleagues.

The reason for this is simple: women are interested in other people; men are interested in bossing other people around. Women want job satisfaction, good working relationships, respect from their superiors. Men want power, and will sacrifice all of the above to achieve it. After 25 years of female activism, women at work are still belittled, dismissed, overruled, interrupted, marginalised, ganged-up on, and excluded. Their virtues — human understanding, frankness and generosity — are used against them by men, who have the enormous advantage of being unable to imagine what it is like to be someone else.

That this will probably always be so is something we must come to terms with. If women were not predisposed to understand the needs of others, a lot of small, helpless people would die. We are programmed (by biology or conditioning — who cares which?) to respond to social signals and pressures, and so find it almost impossible to be as single-mindedly ruthless as men.

When I wrote an article a couple of years ago on the way men abuse women's trust and loyalty at work, I was accosted for months afterwards by women who said that they had secretly placed it in all the office in-trays. Other women furtively pinned it on noticeboards after the men had gone home. Gratifying for me to be the *samizdat* author of the female workforce, but this mutinous skulking around hardly suggests a picture of vanquishing womanhood.

Everybody wants a girl as an assistant; nobody wants a woman as a boss. Behave like a man at work — hold your ground, bulldoze your opponent, talk through interruptions — and you will be marked as a Batemanesque terror. The Woman Who Doesn't Give Way at Meetings. Ridicule is a peculiarly mortifying weapon. Sex Man may be the *bête noir* of the literary classes, but it is Essex Girl who is the butt of jokes. Edward Heath spent years bitchily hectoring his successor, but it is Margaret Thatcher who is portrayed as the nagging mother-in-law "backseat driver". A man may be forceful, a woman is merely shrill. After a generation of militancy, all we have seem to have done is license another wave of bilious misogyny.

Bye bye, American Pie

Peter Stothard, in Maryland, sees the American dream turn sour

Somehow George Bush is not getting through to Maryland mother-of-three, Mary Nutwell. We are sitting in the library at Greenbelt, one of three model middle-class communities built by President Franklin Roosevelt during the New Deal. Outside the window, across the village green, is her 1930s row-house, a war memorial, a line of shops and a large pond: all parts of the Welwyn Garden City life which FDR wanted the outskirts of Washington to share.

Among the now leafless trees stand art-deco figures of office-worker heroes summing up the optimism of the time. The Indiana limestone is more flakey now; the grand carved typewriters are still faintly absurd. But the promise from the constitution "to promote the general welfare", made in deep-cut letters on the school wall, is still important to Mrs Nutwell. And she does not think that the general welfare is being promoted by President Bush at all.

In the language of political economists, Mary Nutwell is one of the American middle class, whose median family income rose sharply in the 1940s and '50s, but is now stuck pretty much where it was in 1973. During that time she and millions of Americans like her have experienced times of great economic hope. This is not one of them.

Mrs Nutwell, whose long fringed hair falls raggedly over a blue cotton shirt and shorts, is 35 years old. She is neither Democrat nor Republican. Unlike many white voters, she does not blame blacks for the economic blight. She does not demand Rooseveltian public works. She is simply frightened about her family's future.

Last week, while ironing, she heard George Bush talk about the economy on the radio. "I think that I've got to do better in making clear what the message is," he said *in a much-reported speech*, "and I think I can do better. But I think there's so much noise out there that I've got to figure out how to make it clearer that we are for the things that I have advocated that would help."

Inside Washington these remarks produced the usual sniggers at the president's foot-in-mouth language. For Mrs Nutwell, the result was genuine confusion. "What did the president mean?" she asks. "It's very scary for me. Is he saying that things are getting better or worse? Is he saying that there is something he can do, or that there is nothing he can do? I don't know. I don't think that he knows."

The Nutwells are by no means the most unlucky of their countrymen. At a time of rising unemployment, Gordon Nutwell still has an $11-an-hour job as a bus-driver. Mary is no longer a teacher of deaf children, but three years ago, in the last days of the Reagan era, the couple managed to buy a share in the Greenbelt housing cooperative.

In 1988 they believed that the American Dream would draw them gently up into the middle of the middle class. Now they see a different prospect, and an increasingly different town. In 1936, Washingtonians were asked to choose "Greenbelt rather than the gutter" for their children. Recently, Greenbelt's own gutters have begun to show signs of the drunk, the drugged and the homeless.

There will be an unwelcome "twelve days of Christmas" here this year. Many council workers will be taking an enforced fortnight's unpaid holiday because tax revenues have suddenly fallen. The Nutwells' family budget has been frozen for two years. Mary now fears that further cutbacks will reduce her husband's wages, and that like so many of her neighbours he may lose his job altogether. She fears not being able to pay the mortgage, and having to start all over again.



Norman Rockwell's safe middle America is under pressure

Out in the Greenbelt Cafe, 26-year-old mother Lesley Fleishman is not so fearful. She and her husband have not tried to buy their house. They have no hire purchase payments to make. "We are lower lower-middle class," she says, "and happy to stay that way." Is she sorry for people trying to move up in the world and end up struggling out of their depth? "No. It serves them right." Does she vote Democrat or Republican? She will never vote at all.

Pensioner Louise Kramer is also unsympathetic to those whose American dream may end with a rude awakening this winter. "Young couples want too much too fast," she says. "People around here, like the government in Washington, have got too used to throw-away money. This recession will do everyone good," she says.

If President Roosevelt's spirit were to return, he would find more solace in another part of the library where Christopher Murray, a political science graduate, is teaching a child to read. It is voluntary work of a kind much prized by the early cooperative, the ideals of which once led to attacks on Greenbelt as the country's "first communist town".

After applying for two hundred jobs in the past year, Mr Murray now earns $9 an hour as a part-time psychiatric nurse's assistant. He rents an appartment on the green, and his debts — for his car, past education and an engagement ring — add up to $30,000. He is unworried. "If it is good enough for the government to be so deep in debt, it is alright for me," he says. "Things will get better."

FDR's ghost would recognise many of the key American character types of this and any age: the apolitical Mrs Fleishman, the puritanical Mrs Kramer, and the carefree optimist, Mr Murray. As a politician, however, his chief target would probably be Mrs Nutwell, the independent citizen who wants to understand what is affecting her life but feels shut in the dark.

Today President Bush is in no position to reassure anyone. Battered by this month's protest votes from Pennsylvania and Louisiana, he does not have a message. He has begun his tour of the $1,000-a-plate Republican fundraising circuit, but he has not tuned in to what $10-an-hour America is saying.

Maryland is not a crucial political state. The closest that most major figures are likely to get to Greenbelt is a 400ft-high approach to nearby Andrew's airforce base. But its presidential primary, though small, is early in the year. Mary Nutwell will be there. "I was not interested in politics when Bush won last time," she says, "but now I surely am."



...and moreover

Craig Brown

Yesterday morning, I bicycled to the village for some shopping. On my way, I happened to see a cat run over by a speeding car. The cat had been strolling on the village green. The speeding car had made a swift detour in order to run it over before whizzing on. "Disgraceful," said a bystander, staring down at the cat's corpse.

"Disgusting," agreed another onlooker. "It's terrible the way them pussies think they have a perfect right to strut around. My sympathies are with the poor driver. To my mind this was his only possible reaction to the heartless goading he was receiving from that awful cat."

All shook their heads in solemn agreement. "It's the driver I feel sorry for," they mumbled. It did cross my mind that their reaction was rather out of character, but as I pedalled on I thought no more about it.

As I was passing the village school I happened to overhear the headmistress reading the children a fairy tale. It was about the Three Little Pigs, a story I knew from my own childhood, but it seemed in some way different from how I remembered it. "And when the Big Brave Wolf said, very reasonably, 'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down,' and the Three Little Pigs, knowing full well what his reaction would be and seeking to cause the utmost offence to the Big Brave Wolf and his deeply-held beliefs, pigheadedly refused to open the door . . ."

What on earth, I wondered, had happened to the villagers? Seeing the village postman, a sensible sort of fellow, I asked him for an explanation. "Oho," he replied. "They'll have been influenced by the speech. They're all churchgoers, you understand, and they welcome spiritual guidance, particularly from a figure so august."

"Which figure?" I asked.

"Why, the new Archbishop of Canterbury," replied the postman, cheerily. "He made a speech last Friday. Didn't you hear it? He defended what he called the passionate reaction of devout Muslims to Salman Rushdie's wilful use of free speech. He said that their passionate reaction to his wounding remarks had been misunderstood and that Christians should all try to understand and to enter into their distress at this outrageous slur."

"But wasn't their 'passionate reaction' to call for Rushdie's murder?" I asked.

"That's it," said the postman, with a merry wink, "and so obviously the villagers have had to reassess their moral outlook on a great many issues over the weekend. My goodness! What's going on over there?"

Over in the village shop, shots were being fired. Two masked bandits rushed out with a sack marked "Swag", jumped into a getaway car and drove off.

"It's the masked bandits I feel sorry for," said the postman, shaking his head. "And I hope we will all try to understand their passionate reaction to what can only be described as a truly wounding amount of money kept by the owners of the village shop."

Within a few minutes, other people had joined the postman in a wholesale condemnation of the shopkeepers.

"Those masked bandits" began the lollypop lady, visibly shaken by the trouble the bandits had been put to, "were prepared to die for their belief that the swag should be theirs. Frankly, it's high time we all did our best to enter into their distress. Dr Carey has taught us that much."

Over on the other side of the village green, an old lady was being mugged by a youth. "She deserves whatever's coming to her," commented the village baker, "carrying that purse around all the time, refusing all reasonable requests to hand it over to the mugging minority. What's the world coming to, when we find ourselves, in the words of the Archbishop, 'so steeped in moral indifference' that we can't defend those who have a passionate conviction in mugging."

"Hear hear!" said the greengrocer. "That old lady's stubborn refusal to be intimidated can only be damaging to the reputation of the deeply-held faith of the entire mugging community."

"One thing's for sure," declared the butcher. "Dr Carey's brought new vigour to the teachings of the Church." In a back garden, a fox was at work killing a chicken. "Damn chicken," nodded the villagers.

Truant minister

KENNETH CLARKE reacted angrily to Jack Straw's suggestion on the radio yesterday that he had visited only three primary schools since becoming education secretary. Clarke retorted that he has visited hundreds of schools over the years. He may have done. But not in the 12 months he has been education secretary. His own department confirmed yesterday that of the 36 visits to primary schools conducted by the three education ministers in the last 12 months, only three were by Clarke. The first was a few days after he took up office. The most recent was in June.

Jack Straw was taking no chances of being hoist by his own petard when he attacked Clarke for not visiting enough schools. His office has "lost count" of the number of primary schools the shadow education secretary has visited.

"We cannot give a precise number," says Straw's office. "He visits at least one school a week. Throughout that year that includes dozens of primary schools."

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrats education spokesman, has a similar record, having visited about 40 primary schools in the last year. In fact, Taylor can give a rough figure for two years. "It's about 100. As well as visiting schools around the country, I have also visited every school in the constituency, which is a lot better than Kenneth Clarke. As there are 60 primary schools and five secondary schools."

Woolly for Boris

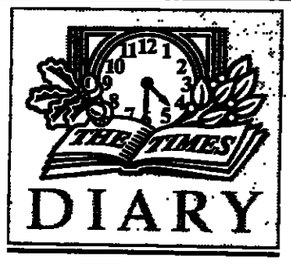
EVEN though it was a bad line, Martin Barnett, the owner of a London clothes store, could have sworn the caller on the other end of the telephone said his name was Boris Yeltsin. He was right.

Yeltsin was telephoning Charlotte Embroidery to place an order for a £50 Jaeger lambswool jumper, with a logo of one of his heroes, Sherlock Holmes, emblazoned on the front.

Yeltsin, it emerged, has a passion for Victoriana. Yeltsin met a Nigerian chief who was wearing one of the jumpers at a trade delegation in Moscow. The Russian leader called the shop in Edgware Road, which produces goods for the Sherlock Holmes Society.

The call was followed up by a fax giving Yeltsin's size — extra large — and President Gorbachev's, with the suggestion that the jumpers be sent to Moscow in the diplomatic pouch.

● *Darlington health authority, currently conducting Britain's most extensive survey into occupational stress, has been hit by a mystery virus afflicting the project director, Professor Cary Cooper, Britain's leading expert in the field. The stomach complaint, irritable bowel syndrome — frequently associated with stress disorders — has forced the cancellation of a press conference to report on the survey. Colleagues deny that the professor found it all too much.*



Jaw jaw, more more

EVEN if there is agreement at next month's Maastricht summit, it will be dwarfed by the significance of another event from the Dutch town's past. In 1770, Maastricht's chalk quarries yielded the remains of the world's first pre-Adamite monster.

The four-foot jaws, with dagger-like teeth, came from a colossal beast that haunted the world before the appearance of man.

Adrian Desmond's book *The Hot-Blooded Dinosaurs* says: "It helped effect a revolution in man's



thinking about the primeval life of his planet: it would make the idea of extinction credible." At the time experts thought it was a monstrous marine lizard. Others thought that the jaws belonged to a prehistoric crocodile. When Europe's leaders descend on Maastricht for the negotiations, will they be able to tell the difference?

Musical première

NORMA MAJOR will share her well-known love of music when she makes her broadcasting debut on Christmas Day. Mrs Major has chosen her 12 favourite pieces of music from the world of opera, theatre, film and pop.

Although she is keeping the full list secret, one piece she has included is Luciano Pavarotti's *Mamma*, because it reminds her and the prime minister of the tenor's summer concert in Hyde Park in pouring rain. Naturally, she has chosen a record by Joan Sutherland, whose biography she wrote. Which record? "Mira, o Norma."

Favourite commercial

CINEMA audiences will never be the same again, after Saatchi & Saatchi unveils its secret new advert for British Airways. The commercial, which is reportedly costing a six-figure sum, will focus on a dewy-eyed couple walking arm in arm through the streets of Paris.

But the romantic idyll will be shattered, when an actress springs to her feet, points an accusing finger at the screen, and shrieks: "That's my boyfriend."

Even before the audience can regain its composure, the screen actress will calmly turn to face her accuser, and reply: "What do you mean? He's mine."

In a pastiche of the Woody Allen film *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, in which a cinema fan becomes part of the film, the screen boyfriend steps into the fray to try to placate both women. He fails.

The advertisement, which was one of Saatchis' most closely guarded secrets, will be screened in December in London before a nationwide tour.

The three-dimensional commercial is reportedly the first of its kind in Britain. Such is the secrecy surrounding the venture, that only a handful of executives at British Airways and Saatchis know about the ad.

When you next go to the cinema beware. You never know who might be sitting next to you.

SINS OF CONFESSION

Winston Silcott shares with the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and Maguire Seven the distinction of being the subject of some of the most notable murder investigations of the century. And yet yesterday Silcott's conviction, like the others before him, was quashed by the Court of Appeal. When it is most necessary for the criminal justice system to bring the guilty swiftly and fairly to justice, it seems least capable of doing so.

What these cases had in common was over-reliance on the good faith of key prosecution witnesses, first by prosecution lawyers, then by trial judges, then by juries and often later by the appeal court. They all assumed, disastrously, that policemen and other professional witnesses are incapable of making mistakes or telling lies.

Human nature being what it is, the greater the perceived significance of a case, the more pressure the police (or in some cases forensic scientists) will feel to secure quick arrests and gain sure convictions. It is only to be expected that even senior policemen with exemplary careers will sometimes be tempted to lower their ethical standards. With faith in the infallibility of their own hunches, a little doctoring of evidence followed by a little "innocent" perjury is justified to their consciences as "serving the wider interests of justice".

To their credit, police commanders nowadays admit that their officers reflect the moral standards of the population. They no longer talk of needing to weed out a few "rotten apples" as if that would restore the constabulary to the ranks of uncanonised saints. But the legal profession and the judiciary, when they don their wigs and address the jury, greet such realism as if it threatened to bring down the whole edifice of justice.

In the light of this string of recent miscarriages of justice, they must surely now realise that their complacent attitude has created a bias in favour of the prosecution's case throughout the criminal justice system. This in turn has actively encouraged policemen to take advantage of it, by short cuts and cheating.

Clearly the system should be changed to provide the opposite incentive, towards honesty. Silcott was found guilty of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock, who was savagely killed in the course of the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985. The evidence against him consisted entirely of statements he was alleged to have made to the police. As the law stands, the police needed only to tell the court that Silcott had uttered words indicating guilt. They were not required to corroborate anything in his alleged statement, nor to prove that he had made it.

In Scotland, in spite of the alleged partial confession, the lack of corroboration would have ensured Silcott's acquittal. The royal commission on criminal justice is now considering whether and how far to go in the (admittedly imperfect) Scottish direction. Should the need for corroboration apply only to confessions, or to all the elements in a criminal prosecution? Lord Fraser, the Scottish Lord Advocate, has pointed out that many convincing cases of rape have to be dropped because the Scottish requirement for strict corroboration (in this case of an allegation by a victim rather than of a statement by a defendant) cannot be met.

There are no panaceas. What the royal commission must look for is an adjustment to the law to make policemen feel the onus is on them to prove that they are telling the truth. It could insist on independent corroboration of facts in a confession statement (as the Bar Council favours). Or it could call for the compulsory presence during questioning of an independent solicitor (as the Law Society advocates). The royal commission might judge that it would be sufficient to rely, as under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, on a sealed tape recording made under controlled conditions (as supported in evidence to the commission by the Crown Prosecution Service).

Above all, members of the commission must assume that as long as it is in the interests of the police to cheat, some of them will. Until the procedures of the law acknowledge that, miscarriages of justice will recur and damage will continue to the impartiality of the law in Britain.

THE OTHER BRUSSELS

Few people outside Belgium paid much attention to the general election campaign which ended with the vote on Sunday. Belgian politics are essentially unchanging: parochial, mired in linguistic quarrels and paralysed by eternal compromise. But the election results are depressing, replete with warnings for Belgium and for enthusiasts of a federal Europe. Belgians often say that their federalism should be the model for the European Community. Heaven help the Community if it goes in this direction.

The elections produced a vote of no confidence in Belgium's new confederal framework, which was intended to reduce bickering between the Flemish and Walloon communities. But national discontent had a further, xenophobic aspect. The overt racism of the smaller parties, unimaginable — and indeed illegal — in other Community member states, paid off, strengthening extremists at the expense of the mainstream parties. With Europe engrossed in the pre-Maastricht haggling in the Berlaymont, few foreigners paid much attention to the ugly posters and slogans in the narrow streets around the Commission building. "Our people first," ominously declared the Vlams Block, the right-wing Flemish party that wants to send most immigrants from the Third World home. Even established politicians played on public anger over welfare abuses by immigrants.

Now, belatedly, politicians are apologising for their deplorable campaign. But the damage has been done. Voters, like those in Austria recently, were angered by eternal political fudges and turned to the radical right for simplistic solutions. The extremists have acquired spurious respectability. Government plans to spend more on training for unemployed immigrants, rushed through after rioting in May, have been set back.

More immediately damaging to Wilfried Martens, the hapless prime minister who is likely to cobble together his tenth fissiparous coalition, is the growing acrimony between the main parties in the two linguistic groups. His earlier coalition foundered because of arguments over the distribution of economic power between Wallonia and Flanders. He now has to rebuild confidence, among politicians, voters and the jittery financial markets, that Belgium's new decentralised confederal structures can be made to work.

This will not be easy. Belgium has now taken devolution so far that the country has almost ceased to exist as a political entity. Absurdities abound. Even official trade promotion services are now split into three, with separate bureaucracies for Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels. The central government speaks for less and less, making international agreements harder and harder to negotiate. No wonder Belgians are desperate for an ever tighter European union. No wonder they will support almost any federalist plan that promises a semblance of authority to balance the repetitious bickerings of national politics.

The voters' evident lack of confidence in what remains of Belgium's central government may reflect the end of a long period of growth and prosperity under the uncharismatic leadership of Mr Martens. He needed the clear mandate he notably failed to receive on Sunday. For Belgium may be almost beyond salvation as a unitary state. If so, the job of central government must be to preside, with as much tact as possible, over the quiet dismantling of an entity flawed since its founding in 1830.

It will probably take Mr Martens months to construct a new coalition. Meanwhile, as a caretaker prime minister, he will be among the most outspoken advocates at Maastricht of an ever closer union in Europe. He should look first at the disastrous results in his own country of yoking too closely peoples who clearly want to run their own affairs, with ever less interference from the (Belgian) Brussels bureaucracy.

REVOLTING STUDENTS

No analogy exists between the student demonstrations of the Sixties and those that took place yesterday. Then, students claimed a global perspective: they wanted Ho Ho Ho Chi Minh in and Wilson out, out, out! Today's demonstrating students merely oppose rent increases.

The shadow of the Sixties hangs over the present demonstrators, none the less. The sins of the fathers are visited on those who are now, literally, their sons and daughters. The government assumes that the politics of the Sixties still work. The word "student" still trails in its wake images of the long-haired layabout fuelled by illegal substances, enjoying a lifestyle that the rest of the population can only envy. The government believes that nobody gives a fig for their fate, and decides the priority for their demands accordingly.

As a political movement, today's student body counts for nothing. As a trade union, however, it has a strong case. In 1969, the student grant amounted to £360 a year. Students frequently ran a small car and a bar bill. Today's students must make do with a maximum grant of £2,265 (outside London). That is a reduction of some 20 per cent in real terms, and Macawber's law of the unhappy relationship between income and expenditure applies with a vengeance. On top of that, accommodation is scarcer, state benefits have been withdrawn and the recession means no vacation jobs. Even without Ho Chi Minh and Harold Wilson, today's students have little to ho-ho about.

The government could adopt one of two broad solutions to these problems. It could decide to go back to the 1960s. The cabinet might reckon that the national interest required the highest possible standards of education for the most talented of the population. Higher education would then be treated like primary and secondary education, as the financial responsibility of the state. Grants would then be increased by enough to pay for rents, food and even a reasonably convivial life.

Or, since people on average earn more if they have been through higher education, the decision to study could be regarded as a personal investment. The private sector could lend the money to finance it. If it was too short sighted to do so, the state would step in. Maintenance and the payment of tuition fees would be regarded as a loan, to be recouped by a surcharge on the national insurance that students would pay later.

Between these entirely logical alternatives, the government has struck an uneasy compromise. Fees are paid, usually. Grants are awarded, but often sent late due to local authority inefficiency, subject to a parental means test and at a level that fails to keep pace with inflation. Loans to top them up are available through the state-backed Student Loans Company. But the amount is limited, the mechanism clumsy and take-up is half what the government originally predicted. The result of this failed policy is widespread student poverty. Being a student is no longer a joke, and yesterday's student demonstration, for once, deserved adult attention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 071-782 5000

Britain's future in Europe and Thatcher call for single currency referendum

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, Although I share to the full your worries (leading article, November 23) about current developments in our relations with the European Community, I cannot see how the device of a referendum (reports, November 22, etc.) could be of assistance.

The question is not one of "the sovereignty of Parliament" but of the general logic of our constitutional arrangements. In this country responsibility for the framing of policy and its execution rests with the cabinet, subject always to its ability to command a majority in the House of Commons. Let us suppose that Mr Major and his colleagues feel obliged to recommend, now or in the future, some new treaty provisions in Europe, and suppose they are put to the country in a referendum, and suppose the country rejects them. What happens then?

If the cabinet sincerely believes that what it has negotiated is the best possible solution to the problem, how can it stay in office unable to give effect to it?

Mr Major would therefore be bound to offer his resignation. But what could her Majesty then do? She could hardly invite Mr Kinnock to assume office, since his own party would have been arguing for still greater concessions to our European partners. The same would apply a fortiori to Mr Ashdown despite his enthusiasm for referendums.

The only logical course of action would be to invite Mrs Thatcher to form a government, but is there any evidence that her policies would be supported by a majority in the House of Commons? So she would have to be granted a dissolution and all would be left to the new House of Commons.

In that sense Mr Ridley and Mr Powell are quite right. If one wants a different policy one must vote for candidates pledged to it. Given the role of party in our affairs this does not seem very hopeful either.

Referendums and responsible government on the "Westminster model" simply do not mix.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords.
November 23.

From Mr J. Garton Ash

Sir, Neither Parliament nor the government has the constitutional right to hand over powers permanently to any other institution without the express consent of the people, which can only be given in a referendum, since in a general election a whole series of issues are raised and the people are only delegating a general power to the party who they think best represents their general views.

Parliament is therefore not entitled to agree to any treaty which permanently deprives the people of their rights to change policy at intervals no greater than five years. This would necessarily imply that any transfer of powers to any European institution would be unconstitutional since, although treaties can sometimes be abrogated, it is clear that once such powers have gone, they will not come back.

Yours faithfully,
J. GARTON ASH,
Fairfield, 14 Highdown Road,
Roehampton, SW15.
November 21.

From Mr Adam Bruce

Sir, Politicians may argue whether by joining the Community in 1973 Britain was agreeing to limit its sovereignty and to subject the legislative supremacy of Parliament to the primacy of Community law, but the legal consequences of Britain's entry were confirmed last year by the lords of appeal in the House of Lords, when they stated that

it has always been clear that it was the duty of a UK court to override any rule of national law found to be in conflict with any rule of Community law.

In joining the Community we did not merely sign up to a set of "treaty obligations" which could be revoked at will; instead the legal system of the Community has become an integral part of our own, to such an extent that, in light of the Lords judgment, Parliament could not legally vote to leave the Community, or even to ignore provisions of the Treaty of Rome. Thus the real future of the Community will be governed not by parliamentary legislation, but by the legal rules emanating from the European Court of Justice and our domestic courts.

Political posturing is nothing new, but for most of my students born *after* Britain joined the Community, the debate over whether Parliament is sovereign or not is now irrelevant.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BRUCE
(Tutor in constitutional law,
Edinburgh University),
Broomhall, Dunfermline, Fife.
November 23.

From Mr Richard Fox

Sir, One major advantage in holding a referendum on the issue of a single European currency would be to force our politicians to explain and discuss the economic rationale behind such a move and not just the political consequences (German hegemony over Europe, etc). Without proper understanding of the economic benefits of a single European currency how can we possibly decide whether the political price is worth paying?

I note with some alarm one reason advanced by certain of our politicians for not holding a referendum is that we, the general public, cannot be expected to understand the complex issues at stake.

Is this not a cover for politicians who do not understand the economic issues either? If so a referendum, by forcing all of us to consider both the economic and political issues concerned and thereby affording an opportunity to make a proper well-informed decision on a matter of such critical importance, will have been more than justified.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD M. FOX,
10 Templars Crescent,
Finchley, N3.
November 25.

From Mr Gregory Lauder-Frost

Sir, I am appalled at the manner in which MPs and the media are attacking Mrs Thatcher over her comments on Europe and a referendum. Possibly with her experience in No 10 she is more aware than most of the dangers of a united Europe.

I recall many of her former colleagues being referred to as "poodles" during her term of office for not putting up alternative views.

Let us have a referendum on our sovereignty as soon as possible. Should the result be as I expect maybe all those MPs who are presently wishing to give away our nation's heritage will stand down — and apologise to Mrs Thatcher.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY LAUDER-FROST
(Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee),
The Monday Club,
BCM "Conservative",
London WC1N 3XX.
November 25.

From Mr B. G. Coxall

Sir, Mrs Thatcher's voluble concerns about democracy and the right of the people to express their will sit ill with her complacent tenure as prime minister for 12 years in the light of the support for her party of only 43.2 per cent of the UK vote at the last count.

Yours sincerely,
B. G. COXALL,
24 Ryecroft Road,
Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent.
November 22.

From Mr Brian H. Fish

Sir, Mrs Thatcher says, "let the people speak" (report, November 21). Such a call, coming from that woman who never seemed to hear when people were speaking, much less listen to what they were trying to say, really does hit a political low. And for her even to think of the word "arrogant" to apply to others is ludicrous.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN H. FISH,
14 Stoke Hill,
Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Avon.
November 23.

From Mr A. R. Brown

Sir, The sovereignty of Parliament is not Parliament's to vote away. It belongs to the people who elected them to govern.

If they wish to transfer this sovereignty to Brussels or indeed anywhere else, they must first ask the people.

There must be a referendum.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. BROWN,
Staple Mead, Curland,
Taunton, Somerset.

In prison abroad

From the Director of Prisoners Abroad

Sir, Your report (November 22) quoting Tom Sutherland's view that the publicity generated by such groups as the Friends of John McCarthy probably prolonged the captivity of the hostages raises a fundamental issue with which we have to grapple daily. Does publicity create public pressure for a prisoner's release or does it entrench the determination of the captors?

Prisoners Abroad now has 540 clients in over 50 countries and is the only charity which cares for the welfare and interests of our citizens detained overseas, whether by lawful or unlawful authority. Many suffer degrading conditions and lack of basic necessities. Many have experienced gross injustice. Many ask us to publicise their plight.

We know, however, that to do so can jeopardise their situation by inviting retaliation from the authorities (some of our clients have been severely beaten and threatened for trying to give us information about their treatment). The quiet approach, by using contacts with the governments concerned, is often more fruitful. It also means that our organisation is respected abroad as having no political axe to grind with the welfare of our clients being our sole consideration. That can be worth a release or two.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH BEST, Director,
Prisoners Abroad,
82 Rosebery Avenue, EC1.
November 22.

Waite's release

From Mr C. A. Payne

Sir, I was relieved and glad when Mr Waite was finally released from his barbaric — albeit self-inflicted — incarceration.

My sympathies also extended to his wife and family, waiting patiently in the VIP lounge at Lyneham (report, November 20) for their turn in the pecking order.

Now that the euphoria is subsiding, it is to be hoped that the media, and all other Waite-watchers, will permit him to retire into immediate and permanent obscurity. He, and the public, deserve no less.

Yours truly,
C. A. PAYNE,
The Old Chequers,
South Creake, Norfolk.

From Mr Peter Mulholland

Sir, Terry Waite risked his life and his freedom to help release Western hostages in Beirut, even going so far as to ignore advice and make his fateful last trip which resulted in his abduction.

If the honours system is to have any meaning then surely his name should appear near the top of the new year's list.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MULHOLLAND,
91 Dryburgh Avenue, Glasgow.
November 19.

Business letters, page 25

Unfair disparity in service pensions

From Major-General Sir Laurence New

Sir, Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius has most appropriately highlighted (letter, November 16) the unfair pension treatment of many ex-servicemen and their widows. It is worse and more extensive than it looks.

The "cliff-edge" effect at March 31/April 1 can work in two ways. First, using the admiral's example of the effect of government pay restraint in 1976, the serviceman retiring on April 1 rather than on the previous day was hugely disadvantaged. As the admiral states, the difference at the rank of major now amounts to £180 a month.

Secondly, and by contrast, the April 1 retirer can be hugely advantaged, as this year, when the overnight increase for a senior Royal Navy captain was 20 per cent or £345 a month. What is more, these gaps, once created, widen inexorably year by year.

For those servicemen — officers and other ranks alike — whose pensions have been adversely affected in a way which was never intended when pay restraint measures were decided upon, this society has urged the minister for the armed forces to introduce corrections by stages so that the cost can be spread.

For those who would otherwise suffer in the future from moderation, deferment or staging of pay awards, the only fair course is for rates recommended by the independent review bodies to be "deemed" for pension purposes.

I greatly fear another "cliff edge" will be created by the government's deferment of decisions on the 1992 Top Salaries Review Body report until after the general election.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE NEW
(General Secretary),
Officers' Pensions Society,
15 Buckingham Gate, SW1.

From Major-General M. E. Carleton-Smith

Sir, I write concerning the anomaly of "pension troughs" in service pensions brought about by the effects of government pay restraint measures. Some officers, and most other ranks, do not have the option to serve to the age of 55 and thereby even qualify for the maximum rate of pension.

Personally I have contemporaries who retired a few months before, or a few months after me, whose pensions are respectively £1,312 and £2,996 greater than mine. This trough is small compared with a major-general who retired on April 1, 1976, and whose pension now is £6,300 less than one who retired the day before him.

Certain state monopoly employers have had the regulations changed to protect their employees from pension troughs, and civil servants and MPs benefit from some amelioration. It is regrettable that the parliamentary under-secretary for the armed forces has declined the request of the chairman of the Officers' Pensions Society to meet to discuss the anomalies and inequities in the armed forces pension scheme.

The services pension system lacks both logic and justice and is a shameful relic, long overdue for significant improvement by a caring government.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CARLETON-SMITH,
Drayton, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

Record pirates

From the President of IFPI

Sir, Your Warsaw correspondent, Roger Boyes, reported (November 22) that most Poles do not take record pirates too seriously, believing that they perform a useful function: providing Western culture at affordable prices.

It is true that in the past music pirates brought Western culture, particularly to Poland's youth, against the wishes of the communist authorities. They performed a valuable role in the same way as underground publishers. They were rightly regarded as national heroes.

Now the situation has changed. Music piracy in Poland is the highest in Europe, accounting for some 80 per cent of the market. Pirate copies of the latest best-selling international and domestic artists appear rapidly and are flooding the markets of neighbouring countries.

The effect of this is that the newly emerging legitimate Polish recording industry is being stifled at birth. Moreover, talented Polish artists are unable to find their deserved place on the international scene as they do not receive their rightful reward in their own country.

Far from being national heroes, Polish music pirates are now the enemies of their own culture. Effective legislation is in the best interests of Poland.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN, President,
International Federation of the Phonographic Industry,
54 Regent Street, W1.
November 22.

Music in church

From Mr Paul T. Ward

Sir, Your leading article, "Schooling the Church" (November 18), states that "the Church of England must use the best modern teaching methods to . . . tell the young what they need to know in order to understand a church service"; and it was a happy coincidence that on the same page there appeared a letter from Mr Peter J. Clarke, who said that the making of music together is probably the best and most effective way of learning to work together.

It used to be, and in many parishes it still is, customary for the young to be encouraged to join the church choir. There, as well as receiving practical instruction enabling them actually to take part in church services, they come under the beneficent discipline of singing together meaningfully. It has been said that the Church's best youth movement is the choir. Would that *all* incumbents could be persuaded to recognise that this is indeed the case.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL T. WARD (Chairman,
Sheffield and South Yorkshire area,
Royal College of Church Music),
11 Ranmoor Crescent, Sheffield 10.
November 19.

Taxi-card scheme

From Councillor Dr Cyril Nemeth

Sir, I was much interested by two recent letters (November 13 and 18) which bemoaned news that the taxi-card scheme was being wound up in Camden and Greenwich. Sad news indeed, if true.

Westminster foresaw that the scheme could not go on as it was some three years ago. So we set up our own taxi-card service instead, and very successful it has been. Rather than giving unlimited journeys to all card-holders, we target the subsidy, so that everybody obtains some trips, but the people with the most need receive the most. As a result, we have no waiting lists, no abuse of the system and no overspend.

If Camden or Greenwich wish to follow our example, I should be delighted to advise them on how our taxi-card works.

Yours etc.,
CYRIL NEMETH,
Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1.
November 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Recruits to teaching

From Miss Emma Foxall

Sir, You report (later editions, November 19) the education secretary as saying that teaching is once again an attractive career. This is surely a flight of fancy on Mr Clarke's part. The 21 per cent increase this year in recruitment into teacher training is more likely due to the lack of employment opportunities open to recent graduates who view a teacher-training course as a means of supporting themselves on a government grant and remaining students for a further year.

This increase could lead in turn to a decline in teaching standards when a flood of people, not seriously interested in the education of children, apply for the previously unfillable job vacancies at schools.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA FOXALL,
Dayspring, Shady Lane,
Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancashire.
November 19.

Cut out the trimming

From Mr Frank Dewar

Sir, I recently bought a beard trimmer but was intrigued to learn that it came with the offer of a free electric shaver. Does this not seem like built-in obsolescence?

Yours faithfully,
FRANK DEWAR,
22 Parkhurst Road, Bexley, Kent.
November 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 25: The Queen, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh, this evening attended the 62nd Royal Variety Performance, in aid of the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund, at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

The Countess of Airlie, Mr Robin Janvrin and Captain Julian Giles were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, today attended a Council Meeting and Lunch at St George's House, Windsor.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 25: The Duke of York today visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lt Col Sir James Scott Bt).

His Royal Highness opened the BBC's new Regional Broadcasting Unit in Southampton.

The Duke of York subsequently visited the Southampton Environment Centre.

Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 25: The Princess of Wales today visited Manchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness opened the Rainbow Family Trust's Francis House Children's Hospice, Parrswood Road, Didsbury.

This afternoon The Princess of Wales opened the New Town Hall, Wigan, and subsequently opened the new Wigan Magistrates' Court House.

Finally Her Royal Highness opened the Galleries Shopping Centre, Wigan.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 25:The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened Stockenchurch Youth and Community Centre, High Wycombe and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Freemantle).

In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited Wycombe Heights Golf Centre, and later Spring Garden Centre, High Wycombe.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Chief Patron, Women Caring Trust, this evening attended the House of Lords v House of Commons Charity Swim at the Broadgate Club, Appold Street, London EC2

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 25: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon presented the 1991 Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts/*Daily Telegraph* Awards at the Royal National Theatre, South Bank Centre, London, SE1.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, will present the Fellowship of Engineering's MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace at noon; as President of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, will present the prizes to the winners of the ESU English Language competitions and chair a meeting at Buckingham Palace at 3.00; as President of the National Playing Fields Association, will host a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30; and, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, will attend a dinner for the Trustees of the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, at Möet and Chandon (London), 13 Grosvenor Crescent, at 8.00.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception given by the British Orthopaedic Association at the Royal College of Surgeons at 3.30; and will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.30 to mark the 80th anniversary of Youth Clubs UK.

The Prince of Wales will hold a reception at Sandringham House at 6.15 in aid of the appeal for the Priory and Parish Church of St Margaret, King's Lynn.

The Duchess of York will visit the Harestone Marie Curie Centre, Harestone Drive, Caterham, at 11.00; and, as patron, will open the Dulwich Picture Gallery's autumn exhibition at 7.10.

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of London University, will attend a seminar at the Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, WC1, at 10; and, as President of Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend the annual meeting at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 4.15. Later, as Patron of the Spinal Injuries Association, she will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace at 7.00.

Princess Margaret will visit the Park Lane Fair at the Park Lane Hotel at 2.30 in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the Ladies Guild the St John Ophthalmic Hospital, will attend the "Gift of Sight" evening at Drapers' Hall at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Glan Clwyd Hospital, Rhyl, Clwyd, at 11.00; will open the Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl, at noon; will open the headquarters of Ruddlan Borough Council at 2.15; and visit the Deeside Enterprise Centre at 3.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open the CBI's conference at Centre Point at 9.15; and will visit the Thames Magistrates Court, 58 Bow Road, E3, at 11.45.

Princess Alexandra will open the Wildlife Teaching Hospital, Haddenham, near Aylesbury, at 11.25; will open the new Maternity Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital at 1.45; and attend a dinner at the Garrick Club at 7.45.

Bithdays today

Major-General Sir John Acland, 63; Professor Margaret Boden, philosopher and psychologist, 55; Dr Cyril Cusack, actor, 81; Sir Alan Dalton, former chairman, English China Clays, 68; Mr Geoffrey Drain, trades unionist, 73; Sir Sidney Eburne, former Senior Crown Agent, 73; Lord Forte, 83; Sir Brian Goswell, partner, Healey and Baker, 56; the Earl of Gowrie, 52; Sir Patrick Graham, former High Court judge, 85; Mr John Gummer, MP, 52; Mr R.W. Hamilton, former Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, 86; Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, former master, St John's College, Cambridge, 73; the Earl of Lovelace, 40; Lord McFadzean of Kelvinside, 76; Mr John McVie, rock guitarist, 46; Mr John Moore, MP, 54; Miss Joyce Quin, MP, 47; Mr A.A.S. Rae, former chairman, Ciba-Geigy, 66; Mr Charles Schulz, cartoonist, 69; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, 68; Mrs Barbara Switzer, trades unionist, 51; Miss Tina Turner, singer, 53;

Northern Ireland gallantry awards

Royal Navy

OBE
Commander Alistair Neil Law, RN.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Sgt Stephen Alfred Dunham, RM; Sgt Darren Hunt, RM; Major Barry Philip Radford, RM; Sgt Thomas John Swan, RM; Lt Col Jonathan Thompson, RM

The Army

CBE
Col David Strudley, OBE, late 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

OBE
Lt Col Paul Anthony Davis, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lt Col Charles Stewart Grant, MBE, Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons); Lt Col David Malcolm Howell, MBE, Army Legal Corps.

MBE
Major Lawrence Ashbridge, Parachute Regiment; WO2 Susan Elizabeth Ball, WRAC (now Lt Royal Army Educational Corps); Major Richard Leon Maunsell Hacken, Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters; Major John Francis Kenwright, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Major Roy Pugh, Intelligence Corps; Major John David Kennedy Russell, The Queen's Regiment; Captain (now Major) Ian Alexander Robert Stenning, Royal Military Police; Captain James Ian Shannan Stevenson, The Royal Scots.

GEORGE MEDAL
Major Mark Blatherwick, MBE, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

THE QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS)
Ranger Cyril John Smith, Royal Irish Rangers (27th Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th).

THE QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL
Staff Sgt Aminul Islam, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Captain Richard Lewis Maybery, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Corporal Andrew John Slater, Cheshire Regiment.

BRITITH EMPIRE MEDAL
Staff Sgt Richard Charles Acott QGM, Intelligence Corps; Cpl Wendy Jane Blacklock, Women's Royal Army Corps; L/Cpl Stephen Douglas Alexander Cargill, Royal Engineers; Cpl Timothy Robert Coldring, Royal Tank Regiment; Sgt (acting Staff Sgt) Peter Timothy Hornett, Parachute Regiment; Sgt Gavin Michael Jones, Intelligence Corps; Sgt Andrew O'Malley, Royal Irish Rangers (27th Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th; Staff Sgt (acting WO2) Anthony Michael Phillips, Army Catering Corps; Sgt Lewis Michael Stratford, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Sgt (now Staff Sgt) Davud Kjell Ian Ward, Parachute Regiment.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES
Col Stuart Grant Adlington, late Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment), Cpl Dale Robert Allen, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lt Col Frederick James Allen, OBE, Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th), Staff Sgt John Atkinson, Intelligence Corps; WO2 Roger Malcolm Barrett, Royal Engineers; Kingsman David John Barton, The King's Regiment; Lt Col Rodney William Brummitt, MBE, Royal Tank Regiment; Major Colin Allen Bulleid, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Captain Edward Adam Butler, Royal Green Jackets; Sgt Paul Neil Chadwick, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Captain Christopher John Claydon, Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters; WO2 Kenneth Albert Cross, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Staff Sgt Ian James Girvin, QGM, Parachute Regiment; Lt Col Jonathan Rupert Maunsell Hacket, Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters; Lt (Acting Captain) Mark Russell Hanscomb, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lt Col Michael Anthony Hart, MBE, QM, Cheshire Regiment; Staff Sgt Mark Charles Henry, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Captain Iain Stuart James, Royal Engineers; Lance Cpl Alistair Robert Jemson, The King's Regiment; Sgt James Edward Leach, Royal Engineers; Lt Col Nicholas Patrick Chad Lewis, MBE, The Light Infantry; Sgt Nigel Lihou, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Sgt David Livingstone, Parachute Regiment; Cpl Roderick Ian Manson, Royal Military Police; Captain (Acting Major) William Crawford McMaster, Gordon Highlanders; WO2 Paul Milnes, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lance Cpl Douglas Orr, REME; Captain Richard Robert Johnston, ORR, Intelligence Corps; Lt Col Chrisropher Edward Price, Gordon Highlanders; Sgt (Acting Staff Sgt) Brian John Rennie, Gordon Highlanders; Major Roderick Michael Riddell, The Black Watch; Sgt Paul Grossart Robb, Gordon Highlanders; Major Reginald Mark Rusby, Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's); Major Robert Paul Russell, The Royal Hampshire Regiment; Major Robin Gerald Russell, Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th); Major (now Lt Col) Andrew John Newman Simkins, Army Air Corps; Col Keith Skempton, late Cheshire Regiment; Major Charles Patrick Carnegie Sloan, MBE, Gordon Highlanders; Lance Cpl (now Cpl) Michael Edward Smith, Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters; Lance Cpl Neil Swithenbank, Royal Corps of Signals; Brigadier David John Venn, OBE, late Intelligence Corps; Cpl David Brian Weaver, The King's Regiment; Sgt (acting Staff Sgt) Robert John Wells, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lt Col Ian Philip White, Army Air Corps, Private Lee Winston Wolland, Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lt Richard Peter Young, Corps of Royal Engineers

In addition to the above, the following awards were made to members of the Ulster Defence Regiment: CBE: 1; MBE: 2; QGM: 1; BEM: 2; MID: 3.

Royal Air Force

OBE
Wing Commander Brian Gerrard Freeman.

AIR FORCE CROSS
Squadron Leader David John Griffiths.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Sgt Ian Day, Flight Lt Thomas Gavin Stuart Rowley.

OBITUARIES

FREDDIE MERCURY

Freddie Mercury, rock star and lead singer of Queen, died of Aids on November 24 aged 45. He was born Frederick Bulsara in Zanzibar on September 5, 1946.



TO MARK the occasion of his 41st birthday in 1987, Freddie Mercury hired a DC9 and flew 80 of his friends to Ibiza. There he took over Pikes, one of the island's most exclusive hotels, and threw an outrageously lavish party complete with flamenco dancers, a fireworks display flashing his name in lights across the sky and a 20-foot long birthday cake carried in by six Spaniards dressed in white and gold.

The affair was typical of a life lived, until the last two or three reclusive years, to the hilt in an unashamedly extrovert, over-the-top fashion: "I always knew I was a star," he declared after the first flush of success, "and now the rest of the world seems to agree with me."

Be that as it may, Mercury was also a remarkably private man when out of the limelight, granting few interviews and giving little away about his family background. The son of Bomi and Jer Bulsara, he was born in Africa; his father was of Persian descent. Part of his childhood was spent in comfortable surroundings in India, where he went to boarding school, before his family moved to Feltham, Middlesex, in 1959. There Mercury's early interest in music took him into the ranks of a local blues-based band called Wreckage.

For a while he studied design and ran a clothes stall in Kensington market. He was helped by a friend, Roger Taylor, who was a student at London University and the drummer in a group called Smile. Mercury would go along to see Smile perform on the local college circuit. "Why are you wasting your time doing this?" he would exclaim to Taylor and the group's guitarist, Brian May, also a London University student. "You should be more demonstrative."

When Smile split up in 1970, Mercury invited Taylor and May to start a new group featuring himself as lead vocalist. He also suggested the name Queen, a deliberately camp, attention-grabbing title which he was well equipped to embody. They recruited bassist John Deacon from the small ads, and played their debut performance at the London College of Estate Management in February 1971.

In the years that followed the group forged a unique combination of heavy metal thunder, complex vocal harmonies and a preposterous glamrock image, woven into a package of dramatic excess. Mercury made a pivotal contribution not only as singer, pianist and one of the group's principal songwriters, but also in defining the group's image thanks to his flamboyant persona and ambiguous sexual appeal.

It was Mercury who wrote the group's best known hit, "Bohemian Rhapsody", a long, elaborate piece which incorporated a cod-operatic sequence followed by a bludgeoning heavy metal finale. The single stayed at No 1 in Britain for nine weeks in 1975 and its host album, *A Night at the Opera*, also sailed to the top of the chart. Such was the group's popularity at the start of 1976 that all four of their albums released to that date appeared simultaneously in the Top 30.

In keeping with the grandiose splendour of their music, Queen's live shows became ever more spectacular events, employing vast sets and lighting rigs. Deacon and May were both naturally retiring types and Taylor was stuck behind his drums, so the group depended heavily on Mercury's commanding stage presence. Prancing down multi-layered catwalks in a sequinned, skin-tight jump suit and ballet slippers, preening his way through a myriad of costume changes, and singing in his majestic, slightly frayed tenor voice, Mercury always matched up to the demands of projecting the group's music and image to the four corners of the world's biggest stadiums.

The group's popularity continued unabated into the Eighties. *The Game* (1980), *Greatest Hits* (1981), *A Kind of Magic* (1986) and *The Miracle* (1989) all topped the UK chart. At the *Live Aid* concert in 1985 they turned in arguably the most resounding performance of that remarkable event, and their *Greatest Hits* album was rarely out of the UK chart for the following two years.

Mercury embarked on a sporadic solo career, which he slotted into breaks in Queen's schedule. His debut album, *Mr Bad Guy*, reached No 6 in 1985, while his greatest success with a single was his cover version of the Platters' 1956 hit "The Great Pretender", a typically overwrought performance which he took to No 4 in 1987.

Also in 1987 he teamed up with Montserrat Caballé to record "Barcelona", a mock-operatic folly composed by Mercury which was then mooted as the official anthem of the 1992 Olympics. It is still in contention for that accolade. In 1986 he contributed three songs, including the title track, to the cast recording of Dave Clark's stage musical *Time*, but despite his various outside activities his first commitment was always to Queen whose personnel remained unchanged to the end.

The group's last tour, which included two shows at Wembley Stadium and a pioneering appearance in front of 80,000 Hungarian fans at Budapest's Nepstadion, ended with a date at the Knebworth Festival on August 9, 1986.

Mercury's renowned bisexual proclivities made him the target of sustained speculation when the Aids epidemic began to take its toll. "Yes, I did have an Aids test and I'm fine," he told *Woman's Own* magazine in November 1987, but rumours persisted that he had tested HIV positive.

In February 1990, after Queen pulled out at the last minute from an appearance at the BRITS Awards, photographs of a very sick-looking Mercury were circulated. But by the autumn of 1990 he was back in the studio with Queen, recording what was to be the group's last new album. Entitled *Innuendo*, it entered the UK chart at No 1 earlier this year and was followed more recently by a compilation, *Greatest Hits II*, which also topped the UK chart.

The current single "The Show Must Go On", which has been in the chart for the last six weeks, has a decidedly valedictory flavour and is accompanied by a video stitched together from old footage of Queen. In a nostalgic sequence of vignettes, Mercury's enduring generosity of spirit and his arch sense of humour continue to shine through.

"I don't expect to make old bones," Mercury once said. "What's more I really don't care. I certainly don't have any aspirations to live to 70. It would be boring."

DANIEL MANN

Daniel Mann, Hollywood film director, died of heart failure in Los Angeles on November 22 aged 79. He was born in New York on August 8, 1912.



DANIEL Mann emerged as a film-maker at a time which perfectly suited his talents, both in their strengths and in their limitations. He made his first film in 1952, at just the time when Hollywood, threatened with the biggest upheaval since the coming of sound as a result of the rise of television, was inclined to take refuge in safe, conservative values. As in the early days of the talkies, established stage successes (or now sometimes television successes) were being transposed to the big screen with as little boat-rocking as possible.

Here Mann excelled. He had a solid stage background and was used to directing big stars in a sensitive, unobtrusive fashion which did not get in the way of their making maximum, if often rather stagey, impact. His first film, indeed, was a straightforward adaptation of a play he had first directed successfully on Broadway, William Inge's *Come Back, Little Sheba*, with the same star, Shirley Booth, who promptly won an Oscar for her role as a faded suburban housewife with dreams of a happy past when the long-lost dog of the title would actually respond to her repeated calls from the back porch.

This more or less fixed Mann in a certain mould: his third film, after a second vehicle for Shirley Booth, *About Mrs Leslie*, was another version of a play he had previously directed on Broadway, Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tattoo*, and again it won an Oscar for its female star, though this time Anna Magnani was a casting new to the piece. After that the equation was complete: if you had a solidly theatrical piece to film and a major female star under contract, then Mann was the obvious first choice to direct. He had come to Hollywood quite late in his career but as he gained experience he became more adept at creating purely cinematic effects. Yet an air of slightly stuffy respectability clung to him to the end.

He came of a comfortably-off New York family, and was educated at Erasmus Hall, Brooklyn, then at the Professional Children's School. He began by earning a living as a musician, playing modestly in various resort hotels. But his passion was always the theatre, and his break came when he was given a scholarship to work and study at the then famous Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York. He did a little of everything, working his way up from small-part actor and assistant stage manager to direction.

In Canada he supervised road companies playing Broadway hits and was beginning to make a small name for himself when the war came. He spent most of it in the US army, then when it was over became a drama teacher. Mann did some stage direction and got involved in the early days of New York television drama, which then was done live and was much more akin to theatre than cinema. Soon he had a series of Broadway successes to his credit, including as well as *Come Back, Little Sheba* and *The Rose Tattoo* musicals like *Paint Your Wagon*. He was also responsible for the very well-regarded City Center Production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. His progression to the movies, in the wake of his near-contemporary Elia Kazan, was almost a foregone conclusion.

So was the shape his film career would take. A series of well-upholstered adaptations from stage hits like *Teahouse of the August Moon* (with Marlon Brando) and Peter Shaffer's *Five Finger Exercise* (with Rosalind Russell), or best-selling novels like *Butterfield Eight*, followed in predictable succession. *Butterfield Eight* at least won its star, Elizabeth Taylor, an Oscar, though no one pretended it was a very good film.

Others, like Paul Muni's final picture, *The Last Angry Man*, tended to embalm rather than enshrine their big central performers. Mann was particularly good at giving strong women their head, and his two major Susan Hayward films, *I'll Cry Tomorrow* and *Ada*, were among his (and her) best.

As late as 1974 Mann got the occasional chance to work on theatrical material of some stature: in that year he made a faithful, well-cast version of the Maxwell Anderson/Kurt Weill musical *Lost In The Stars* for American Film Theatre. But by then he was mostly consigned to dreary showcases for the lethargic talents of Dean Martin, like *Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?* and *Who's Got the Action?*, as well as the livelier *Our Man Flint*, an early James Bond clone.

Daniel Mann's main later claim to fame was having succeeded (briefly) in making rats box office in *Willard*, the tale of a boy and his rat.

But otherwise few of his later films stick in the memory, although his television mini-series *How The West Was Won* had its admirers. He was a latter-day Hollywood professional, a safe pair of hands and the sort who is relied on to take over films in trouble when more idiosyncratic directors have fled.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.S. Castle
and Miss K.L.E. Reynolds
The engagement is announced between Niall, elder son of Mrs Patricia Castle, of Enfield, Middlesex, and the late Mr Peter Castle, and Keryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Reynolds, of Geraldton, and Mrs Carole Pestana, of Perth, West Australia.

Mr F.H. Clarke
and Miss C.F. House
The engagement is announced between Francis Hugh, elder son of the late Mr G.H. Clarke and of Mrs V.R.N. Clarke, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, and Charlotte Frances, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles House, of Bulford, Wiltshire.

Mr R.D. Cooper
and Miss A.S.P. McLean
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr D. Cooper and Mrs P. Cooper, of Bingley, Yorkshire, and Sieona, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. McLean, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr A.G. Crossman
and Miss D.H. Councell
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Crossman, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Deborah, daughter of Mr Derek Councell and Mrs Elizabeth Ballantyne, of London.

Mr J.A. Farquhar
and Miss C.E. Porteous
The engagement is announced between James Aubrey, younger son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs David Farquhar, of Saline, Fife, and Catherine Elizabeth, elder daughter of Canon and Mrs Derek Porteous, of South Woodford, London.

Mr M.J. Happell
and Miss H.C.H. Joseland
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Happell, of Melbourne, Australia, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Joseland, of Albrighton, near Wolverhampton.

Mr C.P. Kindersley
and Miss L.H. Pohl
The engagement is announced between Christian, son of the Hon Philip and Mrs Kindersley, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and Lara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Pohl, of Constantia, Cape Town.

Mr R.G.L. Mayall
and Miss M. White-Spunner
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Sir Lees and the Hon Lady Mayall, of Sturford Mead, Corsley, and Maria, fifth daughter of the late Mr B.N. White-Spunner and of Mrs B.N. White-Spunner, of Lower Swell, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.G. Puckett
and Miss J.C.L. Drinkwater
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, son of Mr George Puckett and the late Lillian Puckett, of Nata Village, Cyprus, and Juliet, daughter of Sir John Drinkwater, QC, and the late Lady Drinkwater, of Meysey Hampton Manor, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr T.J. Duggin to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Vanuatu.

Admiral Sir John Kerr to be Flag Aide de Camp to The Queen.

Alan Lee Williams to be Director of the British Atlantic Committee.

Mr S.W. Hockey, Headmaster, Christ College, Brecon, is to join the Curriculum Council for Wales.

Mrs John Nutting to be a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, in succession to Sir Frederick Holliday.

Commodore Robert Hastie to be Vice Lord-Lieutenant for West Glamorgan.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Rev Philip H Miller, Vicar, St John's, Woodbridge, to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary's, Combs, Stowmarket (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich)

The Rev Ian Morgan, Senior Producer, BBC Radio Essex (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, All Hallows, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Ian G Pidduck, Vicar, Bridgwater, St John the Baptist, to be also Part-time Chaplain to Bridgwater Hospital (Bath and Wells).

The Rev John E F Rawlings, Chaplain, Royal Navy, to be Vicar, Tavistock with Gulworthy (Exeter)

The Rev Ian Read, Vicar, Worcester, St Wulstan; to be Rector, Stoulton with Drakes Broughton and Pirton and Norton (Worcester).

The Rev Barry R Roche, Rector, Luton Christ Church (St Albans), to be Team Rector, Glascote and Stoneydelph Team Ministry (Lichfield)

The Rev Canon Stephen F Sidebotham, Rector, St George, Gravesend, to be also Priest-in-charge, St Mark, Rosherville (Rochester).

The Rev Michal P Skilros, Priest-in-charge, Great Finborough with Onehouse and Harleston; to be Rector, Great Bealings and Little Bealings with Playford and Culpho (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Luncheon

Royal Over-Seas League
The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Sir Leslie Porter were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday at Over-Seas House. St James's. Mr Peter McEntee, deputy chairman, and members of the central council were the hosts.

University news

London
Professor Shah B. J. Ebrahim has been appointed to the chair of clinical epidemiology at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine from next October. Professor Ebrahim is professor and honorary consultant physician in the department of health care of the elderly at the London Hospital and St Bartholomew's Medical Colleges.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Professor K. Michael Spyer, head of the Department of Physiology, has been awarded an honorary doctorate of medicine by the University of Lisbon.

Reception

Jewish Chronicle
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a reception held last night at Guildhall to mark the 150th anniversary of the *Jewish Chronicle*. Mr William Frankel, chairman of the board of directors, and Mrs Frankel, and Mr E.J. Temko, editor, and Mrs Temko received the guests. Lord McGregor of Durris, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, was a speaker.

Marriages

Mr P.T.V. Page
and Señorita M. Lizárraga Valdivia
The marriage took place in Peru, on October 25, 1991, between Philip Page, of Kingsbridge, Devon, and Melba Lizárraga Valdivia, of Lima, Peru.

Group Captain C.K. Saxelby
and Mrs J.M. Wagstaff
The marriage has taken place quietly in Torquay, between Group Captain Clive King Saxelby and Mrs Jenifer Margaret Wagstaff.

Dinners

Anglo-Turkish Society and Turkish-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The Turkish Ambassador and Mme Önhon were the guests of honour at the annual joint dinner dance of the Anglo-Turkish Society and the Turkish-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Baroness Trumpington, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was the guest speaker.

The Pilgrims
The Pilgrims held a dinner last night at the Naval and Military Club in honour of Mr Jason McManus. Lord Carrington, CH, president, was in the chair.

Among others present were:
The Right Rev Dr R D Say, Lord Sherfield, Sir Hugh and Lady Cubitt, Sir Oliver Wright, Mr and Mrs Peter Barton, Mr William E Channing, Commander and Mrs James M Ekins, Mr Robert L Sigmon and Mr and Mrs Robert M Worcester.

Bakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests of the Bakers' Company at the election dinner held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Mr Alderman Paul Newall, Master, presided, assisted by Mr Lionel Springett, Mr Derek Springett, Mr Trevor Beale, and Mr Harold Gould, Wardens. Mr John Gummer, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was the guest speaker. The Lord Mayor and Mr Anthony Cavan also spoke.

Among others present were:
The Bishop of Dunwich, Baroness Perry of Southwark, the Presidents of the National Association of Master Bakers, the Scottish Association of Master Bakers and the National Federation of Bakery Students' Societies; the Deacon of the Incorporation of Bakers of Glasgow, the Chairman of the Federation of Bakers, the Masters of the Merchant Taylors' and Constructors' Companies, the Honorary Colonel of London University OTC, the Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and Herr Christian Benath and Herr Wolfgang Hesse of Dresden.

Conference of Medical Royal Colleges
The Chairman of the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties in the UK, Professor Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and members of the conference entertained Dr K.C. Calman, Chief Medical Officer, at dinner last night at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Old Plymothian and Mannamedian Club
The 43rd annual dinner of the London section of the Old Plymothian and Mannamedian Club was held on Friday, November 22, 1991, at the Officers' Mess, the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, Chancery Lane. It was attended by 100 former pupils of Plymouth College. The Chairman of the London section, Mrs Jane Jenkins, welcomed as guests Mr A.M. Joyce, headmaster of Plymouth College, Mr A. Morsley, Mr M. Veale, and Mr P. Organ and Mr C. Robinson, President and Chairman of the OPM Club.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Cowper, poet, Great Berkhamstead, Herts, 1731; George Forster, explorer, Nassenhuben, Poland, 1754; William Armstrong, Baron Armstrong, inventor, Newcastle, 1810.

DEATHS: John McAdam, inventor of the road surface of that name, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, 1836; Adam Mickiewicz, poet, Istanbul, 1855; Coventry Patmore, poet, Lymington, Hants, 1896; Sir Leander Jameson, leader of the abortive raid (1895) into the Transvaal, London, 1917; Tommy Dorsey, trombonist and band leader, 1956; Cyril Connolly, critic, London, 1974.

Sing a new song to the Lord, sing his praise throughout the world, you that sail the broad seas and you that inhabit the coasts and islands.
Isaiah 42 : 10

BIRTHS

AGNEW - On November 24th in Norwich, to Clare (nee Tinsley) and Bolton, a son William Bolton. A brother for Rose.

BAKER - On November 20th, to Geraldine and Chris, a son, Lawrence Christopher.

BLOOD - On November 4th, in London, to Tracy and Nicholas, a daughter, Georgia Alice Hugo.

CRAIG - On November 21st, at The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to Emma (nee Fuller) and Toby, twin daughters, Jessica Anne and Lucy Elizabeth.

DINNAGE - On November 21st to Susan (nee Wilkinson) and Kevin, a son, Matthew Thomas, a brother for Philippa.

DOUTNEY - On November 23rd, at Queen Charlotte's, to Annette (nee Borrer) and Christopher, a daughter, Olivia Charlotte Rose.

GARDINER - On November 19th, to Gill (nee Davies) and Mark, a daughter, Jennifer Ann Lucy.

GREENHALGH - On November 20th to Deborah (nee Potts) and Peter, a son, Hugo Miles.

GRUNDY - On November 16th, to Lindy (nee Darton) and Kit, a daughter, Phillipa Claire, a sister for Emily.

HOWARD - On November 25th, at The Linda Wing, to Henrietta (nee Hales Pakenham Mahon) and David, a son, Philip Nicholas Luke, a brother for Rupert and Leonora.

JACOBS - On November 22nd at Nottingham City Hospital, to Deborah (nee Smith) and Paul, a son, Edmund Charles.

MEREDITH - On November 22nd, at Ysbyty Nevill Newydd, Abergavenny, to Jacqueline (nee Rowberry) and Andrew, a son, James Andrew.

MERRIAM - On November 21st, to Penelope (nee Gidley-Kilchin) and Richard, a son, Peter Henry Laurence, a brother for Georgina.

MONTAGUE RENDALL - On November 20th, to Diana and David, a daughter Amelia Diana, a sister for Eleanor, Edward, Elizabeth and Alexander.

PARKES - On Tuesday, November 12th 1991 to Sally (nee Wilson) and Mike, a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Victoria, a sister for Oliver. 2 The Green, Ashorne, Warwickshire.

ROSE - On November 23rd 1991, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Lucinda (nee Shepherd) and Christopher - a daughter, Persephone Clare, a sister for Alexander.

SHUTER - On November 17th, at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Sian (nee Evans) and Mathew, a son Oliver Charles Gauntlett.

SOFFE - On Wednesday November 20th, at the Princess Anne Maternity Hospital, Southhampton, to Fiona and Max, Eloise Emilia (10lb. 8 ozs), their fourth child and first daughter

VINCENT - On November 24th, the Feast of Christ the King, to Margaret (nee Colbourn) and Richard, a son, Basil Benedict, a brother for Catherine.

WHITAKER - On November 22nd, to Cathy (nee Guest) and Steve, a daughter, Emily Rose, a sister for Sarah, Sam and dearest Jack, always loved and remembered.

WILKINSON - On November 23rd, to Andria (nee Bateman) and Mark, a son.

WOODWARD - FISHER - On Thursday November 21st, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Kerry and William, a daughter.

DEATHS

BAKER - On November 20th 1991, suddenly. Dents Forrest Barrington, Teddington, Middlesex and formerly of Kuala Lumpur. Funeral, 1 pm, December 2nd 1991, Kingston Crematorium. Enquiries: 081-546 4813.

BATTAGEL - On November 7th, 1991, peacefully at home, Arthur Trethowen Battagel, aged 83. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium at 2 pm on Friday, November 29th.

BOZMAN - On November 25th peacefully in hospital. Ursula Mary aged 84 years. Beloved sister of Edith Robertson. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity, Barsham, Beccles, Suffolk, Friday, November 29th, 12 noon. Enquiries to Harvey Bros., Kirby Cane. tel: 050845-663.

DEATHS

BERKSON - On November 22nd, suddenly but peacefully while attending a patient. Rosalind (née Zalin), aged 72. Widow of Dr. Jacob (Jack) Berkson, of Liverpool, loving and loved mother of Michael and wife Valerie and of Elisabeth and husband Ian and proud grandmother of six. Mourned by her family, friends and patients. Funeral, 3pm, Wednesday November 27th, at Chelmsford Crematorium, followed by prayers at 8pm at her daughter's home. Donations if desired to Children's Ward, St. John's Hospital, Wood Street, Chelmsford.

BIRTWISTLE - On November 22nd, peacefully at home after a short illness. Henry Read, much loved and sadly missed by all his family. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Gisburn on Thursday, 28th November at 11am. Family flowers only. donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research or St. Mary's Church.

BOWIE - On Monday, November 25th 1991, James of the Belmont House Hotel, Leicester, aged 87. Beloved husband of Olive and father of Ann, Rowan, Cherry, James and David. Funeral Service at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, De Montfort Street, Leicester on Friday, November 29th at 10.30 am.

BRADSHAW - On Saturday November 23rd, peacefully after a short illness, Maurice Bernard Bradshaw, O.B.E., F.R.S.A., aged 88 years. Formerly Secretary General Federation of British Artists. Much loved husband of the late Gladys and sadly missed father of Sandra and grandfather of Sara and Richard. Funeral at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, nr Crawley on Friday November 29th at 1.15 pm. Family flowers only please to Freeman Brothers Funeral Directors, Horsham or donations if desired to A.G.B.I., Berlington House, Piccadilly, London. W1V 0DJ.

CARNEGY - On November 23rd, at home, Judith (née Herbert), after a characteristically courageous fight against cancer. A beloved wife and mother to Willie and Angus. Funeral private. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to the British Red Cross, Weeke, Winchester.

CHOWN - On November 21st 1991, suddenly, Norah Margaret Chown, O.B.E., aged 83. Daughter of the late John and Ethel Chown and dear sister of Marjorie and Eileen. Cremation at Aldershot on Friday November 29th at 11am. Family flowers only please.

CLIMIE - On 20th November 1991, in Turin; George Patrick James, aged 14 months, beloved son of David and Daniela. U.K. donations welcome to Great Ormond Street Hospital Heart Research.

DAWSON - On November 24th 1991, peacefully, Katherine Howard, of Fulmer Place, Fulmer, Bucks, wife of Alex Dawson (deceased). Funeral service at Fulmer Parish Church on Friday November 29th at 2.45pm. All enquiries to H.C. Grinstead Ltd. Tel: 0753 882644.

DOYLE - On Saturday, November 23rd, peacefully at the residence of his sister in Hampshire, Arthur J.P. Doyle. Funeral at home in Ireland. No flowers, no Memorial Service at his request.

GADSBY-PEET - On November 21st, very suddenly, Brian, aged 68, darling C.W.B. of Pauline and much loved father and friend of Antony, Nicholas and Jeremy. Funeral Service private. Family flowers only please. Memorial Service will be held on December 4th at Bradford Cathedral at 12.30 pm. Enquiries to Jack S. Bailey. Funeral Directors, Bingley (0274) 565415.

GORLEY - On November 23rd, peacefully at his home, Charles John Hamilton 'Captain Jack', of Exeter Road, Dawlish, Devon. Beloved husband of the late Linda, much loved father of Peter, father-in-law of Elizabeth, grandpa to Laurence and Jessica, loving brother to Joan, Ella, Rosemary and the late Margaret. Funeral, Saturday November 30th, service at Devon & Exeter Crematorium, at 11 am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Dawlish Patient Support Group, C/O G B Avant & Sons, 50, High St, Dawlish, Devon.

HODGKINSON - On November 22nd 1991, Peter Lee Partridge has joined his mother Lilian Grace Partridge.

DEATHS

HADDEN - On November 24th 1991, peacefully at his home in Seaford, Frederick George, aged 91, Chevalier of the Order of St. Olav. Loved husband of Elizabeth-Ann, father of Elizabeth-Ann Wade and David, grandfather of Roland and Alexander, James and Christina. Funeral to be at The Downs Crematorium, Brighton at 3.15pm Friday November 29th. No flowers.

HARRISON - On November 16th, at Queen Victoria Hospital, E. Grinstead, Elizabeth (Betty), formerly of Great Bookham and widow of Arthur Harrison. Requiem at 11.00 am on November 27th at Our Lady of the Forest, Forest Row, E. Sussex. Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, to Shekinah Clinic, Ghana, c/o Andy Diss, 127 Imberhorne Lane, E. Grinstead, W. Sussex (Our Lady of the Forest Tamale Account).

HAYWARD - On November 23rd, bravely and peacefully after a short illness, Irene Dorothy, aged 88, Widow of S. Pascoe Hayward Q.C. Much loved mother of Sarah, Martha, Simon and Jonathan, grandmother of Nicholas and Petra, great-grandmother of Anna, Emily, Lucy and James and aunt of Karenina. Funeral Service on Thursday November 28th at 2.30, at Cassington Church. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to Cancer & Leukaemia in Childhood Trust, C/O. Mrs Ashfield, Bereavement Officer, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX3 9DU.

HOLNESS - On November 24th, peacefully at Leatherhead, after a long illness, (Florence) Hathaway Holness, formerly of Saffron Walden, aged 86. Widow of Harry Holness and dearly loved mother of Paul, Malcolm and Nicolas. Funeral at Fetcham Parish Church, Monday December 2nd, at 3pm, to be followed by cremation. Enquiries to Hawkins of Leatherhead. 0372 372435.

JONES - On November 23rd at Alverstoke, formerly of Malvern, Megan Bevan, aged 76. Beloved wife of the late R.L. Jones. Dearest mother of Michael and Judith, Proud Grandmother of Richard, Deryn and Henrietta. Thanksgiving service at St Luke's Church, R.N.H. Haslar, on Friday November 29th 1991 at 11.30am followed by private family cremation. "And when you smell the flowers I loved, then let your heart beat fast for me, and I shall not be dead." Family flowers only, but donations if desired for the Portsmouth and District Hospice Appeal, may be sent to Churcher & Tribbeck, 3 Stoke Road, Gosport, PO12 1LT.

LLOYD - On November 24th after a long illness, Emrys, father of Martin and Adele and grandad to Nils and Camilla. Private cremation November 27th in Macclesfield.

MACDONALD - On November 23rd 1991, peacefully, Patrick John, a much admired Alexander teacher, husband and father. Cremation at the Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton, on Friday November 29th, at 11 am. Family flowers only, but donations to Meadow Lodge Nursing Home, Lewes, Sussex, would be welcome.

MACLEAN - On November 21st, tragically in France, William, adored son of John and Diana, brother of Caro-line and James, Grandson of Jack Fleming. Private service at Heyshott.

MEYER - On November 24th in Brighton, Richard, dearly loved husband of Pat.

MILES - On Friday, November 22nd at The Old Rectory, Ewhurst, Anne Bell Wishart, aged 93 years, beloved wife of the late Frank W. Miles, dear sister of Jean, Willie and the late Robert and a much loved Aunty. Funeral service at Cranleigh Baptist Church on Friday, 29th November at 1.30pm. Thereafter to Guildford Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations may be sent for The Red Cross, c/o Aylings, 25 South Road, Guildford. Tel: 0483 67333.

PICKTHALL - On November 24th 1991, Ellen, widow of Brig. W.E.C. C.B.E., much loved mother of Colin and his wife Ann, devoted granny to Mark, Charles and Sarah and proud great-granny of Guy. Funeral, Sherborne, family flowers only please.

DEATHS

MILLS - On November 23rd, suddenly at home, in Evershot, Dorset, Donald Victor, dearly loved husband and friend of Veronica (Agnes), and stepfather to Christopher, Hodsoll. Funeral service at St. Osmund Church, Evershot, on Friday November 29th, at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to the National Asthma Campaign, c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester, Dorset. Tel 0305 262336.

POULTON - On November 23rd 1991, peacefully in The Royal United Hospital, Bath, Marjorie Gwendoline, aged 86 years, widow of Edward and mother of Susan. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral service on Friday November 29th at the Church of the Holy Cross, Seend at 12.30. Family flowers only, donations to Leukaemia Research or Dorothy House Foundation, Bath c/o D.J. Bawley 49, Roundponds, Melksham, Wilts (Tel: 0225 702592).

ROBERTS - On November 25th 1991, peacefully after a long illness courageously borne. Dick, aged 85 years. Adored husband of Denise, dearly loved father of Joanna, Sue, Miranda and Alex. Much loved son of Doris and father in law to Jeremy, Jamie and Peter. Funeral service at St. Nicholas Church, Compton, on Friday November 29th at 3.15pm. Flowers, or donations to Imperial Cancer Research or the MacMillan Services may be sent to J. Gorringe & Son, Funeral Directors, 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey. Tel 0483 416403. Details of memorial service to be announced later.

SAWTELLE - On November 22nd, 1991, Anthony Hamp, beloved husband and father. Service at Slough crematorium on Friday November 29th 1991 at 11.30 am. Donations to British Heart Foundation.

SMITH - On November 21st peacefully at her home in Upton, Poole, Dorset, Sheila Vaughan dearly loved wife of the late Dr. Richard Hugh Smith (body bequeathed for medical research). Funeral service at St. Marys RC Church, Poole, on Friday November 29th at 12.10pm followed by burial. Enquiries to Tapper Funeral Service, 32/34 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset. Tel 0202 673164

TURNER - On November 23rd, Ronald Joseph Turner, I.S.O., beloved husband of Rosemary and deeply loved father of Nancy and Jonathan. Enquiries to W.A.Treseliove & Sons Ltd. Tel: 0372 723337.

WALLACE - On November 23rd 1991, at home in Melbourne, Australia, David Patrick, aged 61. Dearly loved husband of Marjorie, father of Malcolm and Dugald, brother of John and Betty. Cremation on November 26th and Memorial Service, Monday December 2nd.

WEBB - On November 23rd as the result of a car accident, Marjorie, of Thorpe Next Norwich. Memorial service at Thorpe St. Andrew Parish Church on Friday November 29th at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Parkinsons Disease Society.

WHITTINGTON - On November 24th at home, Ian Peter, aged 76, much loved husband of Ann, father of Jennifer, Peter and Julian, grandfather. Cremation at Mill Road, Benhall Wells on Tunbridge November 29th at 12.30. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, c/o Paul Bysouth, Funeral Directors, 9 Croft Road, Crowborough, East Sussex.

ZISMAN - On November 23rd after long illness bravely borne, Sally widow of Professor Leslie Zisman. Much loved mother of Paul, Claire, Katie and Jenny and devoted grandmother to Emma. Funeral service Friday November 29th at 3pm at Epsom Cemetary, Ashley Road, Epsom. Flowers to F.W. Paine, 108 High Street, Esher or donations made payable to the Liver Research Unit Trust and sent to Mrs. J. Canty c/o The Institute of Liver Studies, Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, SE5 9RS.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HAGGARD - A service for the interment of ashes of Hugh Alfred Vernon Haggard will take place at All Saints Church, Stock, Billericay, Essex, at 1.00pm on Thursday December 5th.

HARRISON - The life and work of Cuthbert Harrison, Organ Builder, will be commemorated at Evensong in Durham Cathedral on Saturday December 7th at 5.15pm. Enquiries: (091-384 3215).

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

MULLER - John, 25th November 1972. 'Primus inter Pares'. David, Margaret, Joanna, Sarah and Dugal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARCHIBALD Christopher John Maconochie - Last known whereabouts 1975 Rhodesia. Please advise him for his own interests to contact Carlos Cipes 7690 Vidigueira, Beleo Alentejo, PORTUGAL.

FLIGHT NO BA 6313 October 1991 Birmingham. Will the stewardess who travelled as a passenger and helped a fellow traveller retrieve his errant luggage from the Carousel on arrival please contact him by writing to Box No 6458

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 50th Birthday Dad. Happy 21st Michelle, Love and Best Wishes from Mark, Craig and Samantha

SIMON D'Arcy is 21 today. congratulations, love and best wishes today and for the future Mum, Dad, Matthew, Sarah and James Sebastian.

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PUTNEY Deodar Rd. Londons only res. rd. on Thames. Unusual quiet studio (4). Sep. kth. & bath'm. 120 ft private path to river. 1 pers £550 PCM incl. Tel. 081-874 2401.

PUTNEY. Lux 1 bed flat. All amenities. Close bus/ BR. £560pcm. 081-458 2032, 081-788 5471

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BAMPTON nee LETLEY, ELIZABETH MAY BAMPTON nee LETLEY Widow late of 179 Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent died At Shrood, Kent on 1st June 1991.

Estate about £300,000. GOLDSMITH, RAYMOND. FREDERICK WILLIAM GOLDSMITH late of 8 Gateshead, Tyne & Wear died At Newcastle Upon Tyne on 3rd June 1991.

Estate about £173,500. KOSTECZKYJ KOSTECZKY, otherwise WALTER KOSTECZKY, otherwise WALTER KOSTECKY late of Flat 7, 5 Friendly service & advice Globe-Aparts 071 935 9512 (est 1980)

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 0011256 of 1991
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF CIBC (UK) HOLDINGS LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 4th November 1991 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £350,000,000 to £99,750,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 7th November 1991
Dated this 26th day of November 1991
Allen & Overy
9 Cheapside
London EC2V 6AD

NICHOLAS BAXTER T/A TV GRAY CARS GRIMSBY

TAKE NOTICE, THAT Court Proceedings commenced on the 19th November 1991 in the Kingston Upon Hull County Court against Nicholas Baxter T/A TV Gray Cars by John Alistair Brown whose claim is for the reimbursement of his financial outlays in the procuring of vehicle registration plate J4B 74 Proceedings were served at the last ascertained address of Nicholas Baxter, 2 Carnoustie Waltham, Grimsby in the county of Humberside in accordance with the Default Order for substituted service obtained by John Alistair Brown from the Kingston Upon Hull County Court on the 13th October 1991

PENNINE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a General Meeting of the unsecured Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 52 High Street, Man

NEW RELEASES

AMA (15): The spiritual voyage of an African family in London, an uneven attempt to merge tribal magic with the urban landscape. Directors, Kwesi Owusa and Kwate Nee-Owoo
Renoir (071-837 8402).

♦ **HANGIN' WITH THE HOMEBOYS (15):** Bread but bouncy comedy-drama, about South Bronx pals hanging out one Friday night, from young Puerto Rican director, Joseph B. Vasquez. With Doug E. Doug, Mario Joyner
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310)

K2 (15): Man versus nature (and man himself) high in the Himalayas. Grand scenery, tired drama. Director, Franc Roddam
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705).

♦ **POINT BREAK (15):** Mindless assemblage of thrills (surfing, sky-diving, bank robbing), thunderously orchestrated by director Kathryn Bigelow. With Keanu Reeves, Patrick Swayze
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SWITCH (15): Miserable sex farce from Blake Edwards. Ellen Barkin mugs unmercifully as a dead macho stud sent back to earth as a woman.
Odeon West End (0426 915574).

THE TWO JAKES (15): Jack Nicholson back on the *Chinatown* trail, uncovering murder and duplicity in Los Angeles. Flawed, but fun. With Harvey Keitel: Nicholson also directs.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

VALMONT (15): Milos Forman's treatment of *Dangerous Liaisons*; muted as drama, but pretty as a Watteau picture. With Colin Firth, Annette Bening, Meg Tilly
Lumière (071-836 0691)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

CURRENT

♦ **BOYZ N THE HOOD (15):** Black urban drama from hot-shot director John Singleton, piled high with homilies, but atmospheric. With Larry Fishburne, rap artist Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr.
Cannon Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CITY OF HOPE (15): John Sayles's dark, multi-layered tale of conflicts simmering in a New Jersey town. Flawed, but crackling with electricity. Starring Vincent Spano, Joe Morton.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Gate (071-727 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

♦ **THE COMMITMENTS (15):** Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

♦ **EDWARD II (18):** Riveting reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman: words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Waddington and Andrew Tiernan as star-crossed royal lovers; Tilda Swinton as the exasperated Queen.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

♦ **FLIRTING (12):** Steps to maturity at segregated Aussie boarding schools in 1965. Delightful sequel to *The Year My Voice Broke* from director John Duigan
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

♦ **OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY (15):** Wall Street greed (Danny DeVito) versus human decency (Gregory Peck). Muted comic variations on a familiar theme. Director, Norman Jewison
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

♦ **RAMBLING ROSE (15):** Innocent sexpot turns all heads in 1935 Georgia. Episodic, benign, hugely entertaining: memorable performances from Laura Dern, Robert Duvall. Director, Martha Coolidge.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353).

TOTO THE HERO (15): Jaunty, absurdist comedy about youth, old age and life's disappointments from talented new Belgian director Jaco van Dormael. With Michel Bouquet.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

URANUS (15): Dark, powerful drama from Marcel Aymé's caustic novel about the settling of scores in post-liberation France. Gerard Depardieu dominates a fine cast; director, Claude Berri.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Renoir (071-837 8402).

♦ **WHAT ABOUT BOB? (PG):** Phobia-mad Bill Murray drives psychiatrist Richard Dreyfuss close to the edge. Sweet, crazy comedy from Frank Oz.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

Desperate for the divine

THEATRE

Noon Break
French Institute

THIS is a production of class and interest; yet it is not the least surprising to find it tucked away in a theatre on the second floor of the French Institute in South Kensington. Even when Fry and Eliot were busily injecting poetry and religion into the veins of a theatre that had become verbally and spiritually emaciated, Paul Claudel's work was rarely seen on this side of the Channel. And, like church attendance, the market for his sombre Catholic muse has presumably declined since that time. Even with Susannah York in the lead, his *Noon Break*, as *Partage de Midi* has been crisply rechristened, is hardly for everybody.

Those who still think of York as a milky, lissom movie star should think again. She is responsible for a translation that admittedly moves with the somewhat stilted rhythms of the original French, but would distort Claudel if it was more idiomatically English. She also brings intelligence as well as erotic energy to the part of Ysé, who must at once be destructive and enriching, a maker and breaker of men. Edwige Feuillère created the character when Jean-Louis Barrault first staged the play in 1948, and York has the charisma, if not quite the intensity, for which the French actress's performance is remembered.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Ideas planted: Tim Woodward as Amarail, Susannah York as Ysé

Claudel himself came again and again to see her, and regularly emerged red-eyed from the experience; for Ysé was based on a woman he had known in his troubled youth. "The wound still hurts," he told Barrault. "The play makes me feel stark naked." Certainly, there is much of him in Ysé's lover and victim, Mesa. This character is a senior customs officer while Claudel was a diplomat; but he too feels drawn to the religious life, yet unwanted by God and harassed by worldly temptation. For him, as for the cast's other three members, it is "partage de midi": not just the time at which the boat on which they are sailing leaves for China, but the critical moment at which life-decisions must be made.

The action, simply staged in Noh style by Eloi Recoing, shifts to a cemetery in Hong Kong and from there to a Confucian temple. Against that stark background, Ysé rejects her money-grubbing husband (Sam Cox) first for Mesa (Michael Thomas), then for a tougher, more sexually robust planter (Tim Woodward). But these adulteries are scarcely of the boulevard variety. Mesa has been unable to give himself fully either to God or Ysé. What he and she realise, while Chinese rebels throng outside, is that divine love is to be found in and through the human sort.

High-flown stuff, which may cause emotional vertigo even in those sympathetic to Claudel. But there is still no doubting the power of his enquiring mind and poetic imagination. And when and where will we find another company able and willing to stage him?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION

Cutting Edge
Channel 4

IN THE brightly-lit casualty department of Homerton Hospital, it is midnight, and a 90-year-old woman sits on a hard chair, singing "Danny Boy". She has been sitting here for five hours now, and her injury from a dog bite has probably become a distant memory, like the first world war.

But whether she sings from desperation, apathy, resilience or bitterness is not clear. She will be aware that the five-hour wait denotes no deliberate cruelty on behalf of the hard-pressed staff. It is just that first come, first served would be a particularly stupid way to run a casualty department, where people keep arriving with stab wounds and cardiac arrests. One of the miracles of the casualty department is that everyone, sooner or later, submits to the principle of the greatest need.

Homerton Hospital in Hackney was the location for Diane Tammes's fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Casualties*, shown as last night's *Cutting Edge*. Tammes is clearly very skilled at burrowing deep inside institutions to reveal their workings (she made the excellent series about an inner London primary school, *Culloden*), but the main appeal of *Casualties* was that it demonstrated another, less tangible quality in her work — her ability to show people behaving magnificently under intolerable pressure, a system justifying itself entirely in human terms. She does this without much recourse to editorialising. True, one caption did say, "Dr Ritchie has now worked 73 hours this week". But this was a plain matter of fact, after all.

Casualties was human interest with a difference: each human story was of interest only so long as it was on the screen. A baby had fallen 15 feet on to concrete and his mother was asked how old the child was. "He'll be a year old tomorrow," she wailed, and the anguish plucked your heart. But such moments gave way to a new story, a new emergency. Similarly, we did not follow the staff's stories individually ("It is time for Dr Ritchie to go home to bed"); there was no narrative other than the moment-by-moment calls on an overstretched system.

My only quibble with *Casualties* was that it took us yet again to Hackney — a borough that seems never to be off our screens. *Fire!* (Thames) was set there, as was the *Cutting Edge* programme about cockroaches. *Casualties* began with the case of a man who had been found walking naked in Mare Street — his problem, he said, was that he was oppressed by the government, the social services and the housing department. No doubt it was Hackney itself that had driven him to this pitch; nevertheless choosing Hackney for his protest seemed an extremely sensible decision. Where else but Hackney could you guarantee ending up in a networked documentary?

LYNNE TRUSS

RADIO

Sunday/Seeds of Faith
Radio 4

THE BEST thing about Terry Waite's release is that one can now resume calling him a public bore. One tends to forget that neither he nor Ian Richter were detained *because of* their religious persuasion. All infidels look much alike to your average Muslim kidnapper: unregenerate atheists would have fitted the bill equally. Yet, when freed from their ordeal they become Christian heroes for whom church bells will toll, loudly, all weekend, even on radio. The Church of England hijacks such events as shamelessly as the BBC World Service.

One wonders what would be the appropriate public response if the despicable and cowardly death threat to Salman Rushdie (not a Christian) were lifted. Indifference? When he complained on Sunday morning's *Sunday* about the Archbishop of Canterbury's most recent foolish remarks — Dr Carey attempting to sit on several fences at once — one felt that he had yet to learn the point, that such figures are paid to be foolish, to "reach out" for example to such moral bankrupts as Oliver North, also a devout Christian.

Seeds of Faith (also Sunday) is a prize example of Christianity trying it on, assuming the probability of a hearing on the ground of institutionalised respectability. Well, respect is nothing if not earned. Can we have any faith in the future? "These are all very big questions." No they are not; they are midget questions posed by ants with dog collars. A vicar in Kirby spoke feelingly of "a sense of powerlessness" and "the feeling of being rejected", and one did wonder why. Then there was a gay Christian, determinedly "taking a positive line" about his faith; the best news is that when faced with today's soaraway Christians, "you realise that you can dialogue with them". These people can scarcely speak English and yet they presume to discuss in public the faith that inspired the King James Bible.

Someone with whom it is notoriously difficult to "dialogue" is Ian Paisley, the Christian peace-maker from Belfast. Interviewed about the Crumlin Road bomb on Radio 4's news yesterday, Paisley took a deep breath and spoke gravely about the plight of Protestants being toughed up in their prison cells by Catholics. "Excuse me," interjected the polite young reporter, "but what's this got to do with a security breach?" Virtually nothing, but Paisley is an ocean liner whose course cannot be deflected by a little tug. Having served two sentences in that very jail, he knows the value of religious apartheid. But, persisted the reporter, would segregation not encourage "godfathers" to control the prison wings? Nonsense, spluttered the old bigot; sex offenders are segregated and their wings are not ruled by "sex godfathers". There is an excellent case for giving Paisley his own weekly comedy show.

MARTIN CROPPER

CONCERT

New London Children's Choir
St John's, Smith Square

AFTER his recent skirmish with the Finchley Children's Music Group, of which he was director for a decade, Ronald Corp went away to form his own children's choir. An adjunct of the New London Orchestra, which Corp also directs, the New London Children's Choir made an impressive recital debut on Thursday. No compromises were made in the quality of the music because of their tender age, while only Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, which ended the evening in an almost too swaggeringly confident style, garnished by the elegance of Theresia Hubar's harp playing, could be defined as standard repertoire. The children's voices are good, too.

For all the surface naivety of its ideas and devices, Britten's skill in targeting the emotions has ensured the enduring specialness of this piece. Hans Werner Henze's *Wiegenlied der Mutter Gottes*, on the other hand, was — for this listener — an intriguing rarity. It dates from 1948, six years after the Britten, when Henze was still exploring the possibilities of serialism. The vocal line is relatively — and touchingly — simple, and Henze leaves it to his mixed group of nine instruments to embellish the line and create the work's dark atmosphere.

Earlier, the choir's 85 or so members had devoted their efforts to four short pieces specially commissioned for this occasion. Diana Burrell's *You Spotted Snakes* opted for a Henze-like solution in its intervals and rhythms, exploiting the instrumental group in the twice-sung chorus to generate a glistening skein of nocturnal mystery. Gary Carpenter chose to set three poems by Aphra Behn, the 17th century English poetess, novelist and spy, perhaps not with particularly arresting sensitivity, but raising a confidently met technical challenge.

Conversely, Brian Chapple's William Blake setting, *Infant Joy*, sounded a touch saccharine. Simon Bainbridge chose the trickiest text to set with his *A Song from Tagore*, but built the work to an impressive climax.

Players from the NLO filled the instrumental roles and gave crisp accounts of Stravinsky's Septet and Martinů's colourful sextet, *La Revue de Cuisine*, outrageous Charleston and all.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Arts features, page 12

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
☑ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☑ **BECKET:** Riveting performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Henry II and the archbishop. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 165mins

☑ **THE CABINET MINISTER:** Derek Nimmo and Maureen Lipman in a snob-bish, largely untunny Pinero comedy. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins

■ **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN:** Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Chilean political drama. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 120mins.

☐ **GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY:** Cheerful trip through Fifties and Sixties hits: flimsy plot but no matter. Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-836 2132). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.45pm and 8.20pm. 120mins.

☐ **THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK:** Good things in this vast, elaborate spectacular but the storyline is a needle in a haystack. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 150mins

■ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT:** Jason Donovan sports a golden wig for this gaudy, brash revival. Palladrum, Argyll Street, W1 (071-494 5071). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat 2.30pm. 170mins

☑ **PARTY TIME:** Dorothy Tutin and Barry Foster in new but short Pinter: tyrants drink while their opponents die. Not vintage but still with the power to chill. Preceded by Mountain Language. Almeida, Almeida Street, London N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 90mins

■ **THE PHILANDERER:** Full version of Shaw's self-censored play on marital doublethink. Preoty, fascinating

TODAY'S EVENTS

week at Sadler's Wells features works familiar to LCDT fans, including *Rikud*, the athletic and humorous romp by the Israeli duo of Liat Dror and Nir Ben Gal. Also on the bill is *Hang Up* (text by Anthony Minghella, choreography by Jonathan Lunn), which chronicles the break-down of a love affair during a telephone call
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). 7.30pm

THE ROYAL BALLET: Covent Garden's resident company contrasts the established genius of George Balanchine with works by two living choreographers in tonight's mixed bill. William Tuckett's latest work, *Present Histories* and Jonathan Burrows's *Stoics Quartet* are performed alongside Balanchine's *Agon* and *Symphony in C* — two of the greatest works of the 20th century.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). 7.30pm.

THE BFG: Roald Dahl's cheerful tale about a Big Friendly Giant (and a Small Friendly Queen) is staged in the West End. A lively production is promised. Aldwych, The Aldwych, London WC2 (071-836 6404). 7pm.

THE BRIGHT AND BOLD DESIGN: The Royal Shakespeare Company stages a new Peter Whelan play (directed by Bill Alexander). Clive Russell and Katy Behean star as Art Deco designers in the socially conscious 1930s. Opening night
The Pit, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891). 7pm

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The company stops off in Plymouth this week performing a mixed bill featuring the Opera North co-production of Verdi's *Rigoletto* (conducted by Julian Smith, with Peter Sidhom in the leading role), the revival of Helmut Polixa's staging of *Die Fledermaus* (conducted by Gareth Jones, with Peter Savidge, Linda Kitchen and Janice Watson), and the company's Mozart bicentenary production of *Idomeneo* (conducted by Anthony Negus, with Dennis O'Neill in the leading role)
Theatre Royal, Royal Parade, Plymouth (0752 267222), 7.15pm

THE QUEEN'S PICTURES: The inaugural show for the temporary exhibition space of the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing brings together the cream of the Royal Collection, including masterpieces by Holbein, Rubens, Van Dyck, Vermeer, as well as works by important British portraitists and Victorian artists
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily, 10am-6pm, until January 19

STATUS QUO: The group continues its "Rock 'Til You Drop" tour celebrating 25 years in the business. Nerl slop Peterborough
Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading (0734 504343). 7.30pm

Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 165mins.

☐ **THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES:** Alan Ayckbourn's impressively ambitious, two-part comedy centred on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Griff Rhys Jones and Lia Williams). Less fun than one might hope, but worth the time
Strand, Strand, WC2 (071-240 0300). Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. 150mins each

☑ **THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN:** Arthur Miller's disappointingly one-sided play where Tom Conti argues the case for bigamy
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. 150mins

☐ **A SWELL PARTY:** Four singers, two pianists in likeable tribute to Cole Porter's debonair wit and wry melodies
Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 9.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm. 140mins

☑ **TARTUFFE:** Paul Eddington dithers, John Sessions cons, Felicity Kendal is bold in a nearly successful Molière
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 120mins

☐ **TOVARICH:** Natalia Makarova and Robert Powell as Tsarist exiles working as servants in Thirties Paris. When funny, very funny, but slow elsewhere
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 160mins

☐ **A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS:** Lively parade of tuneful oldies. Good fun
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 6.15pm and 9pm. 120mins.

☐ **WAITING FOR GODOT:** Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson find comedy but lose the depth and pathos in Beckett's play
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 5pm and 8.30pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm. 135mins

☐ **WHEN SHE DANCED:** Vanessa Redgrave unforgettable in Sherman's artful play about Isadora Duncan and the hazards of communication.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 135mins

■ **WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Return of last winter's hit version by Alan Bennett: witty and wonderful (now sold out for the complete run).
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm. 205mins

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972). ☑ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-867 1044). ☐ Carmen Jones: Old Vic (071-928 7616). ☑ Cats: New London (071-405 0072). ☐ Five Guys Named Moe: Lyric (071-494 5045). ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611). ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909). ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400). ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443). ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244). ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299). ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-494 5075). ☑ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665). ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Ave W1 071 439 4805 **EDWARD II** (18) A film by Derek Jarman Progs at 1.45, 3.55, 6.05 & 8.30
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CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 **TRULY,MADLY, DEEPLY** (PG) Progs at 1.45 (not Sun), 3.55, 6.05 & 8.20

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 **TOTO THE HERO** (15) **"You simply have to see it."** S Exp Progs 1.45 (not Sun) 4.00, 6.15 & 8.30

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PICCADILLY THEATRE B.O. 071-867 1118 CC 867 1111 379 4444 (No bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
Limited season only Until 7 Dec
NATALIA MAKAROVA
ROBERT POWELL
in the Chichester Festival Theatre production of
TOVARICH
"a gem...delightful" D Tel
by Jacques Deval
Directed by Patrick Garland
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sat 4.0

PICCADILLY THEATRE B.O. 071-867 1118 CC 071 867 1111 071 379 4444 071 497 9977 (No bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123
OPENS DEC 13
CILLA BLACK
in
JACK and the BEANSTALK
Twice daily 2.30 & 7.30 (except evn perfs) including Sundays
Some concessions at all
LIMITED SEASON ONLY

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071-839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 071 379 9463 (no bkg fee)
PETER HALL COMPANY
PAUL EDDINGTON **FELICITY KENDAL**
JOHN SESSIONS
in MOLIERE'S
TARTUFFE
" Comic genius is everywhere " Daily Mail
With Nicholas Le Prevost & DULCIE GRAY
Directed by Peter Hall
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
LAST 7 WEEKS
MI GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First call 24hrs,7 day cc No bkg fee) 836 3464 cc (No bkg fee) 379 4444 Grps 071 930 6123 /240 7941
DAVID McCALLUM **KENNY EVERETT**
in **MIKE BATT'S**
THE HUNTING OF
THE SNARK
THE MUSICAL
"DAZZLING ARTISTRY... SCENIC WIZARDRY" D. Exp
Mon-Sat 8.0 Mats Thu & Sat 3.0

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 24hr 379 4444 (bkg fee) 793 1000 Groups 930 6123
ASPECTS OF LOVE
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel
Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
SOME SEATS AVAILABLE NOW

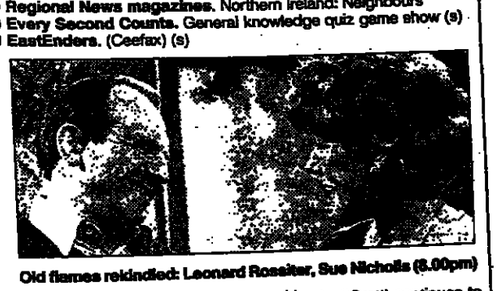
QUEEN'S 24hr BO/CC 071 494 5040 (No Fee) Special group rate 071 494 5454 (No Fee) Groups (24hr Bkg Fee) 071 379 4444 / 071 497 9977
"Very funny and highly recommended" Observer
"A thoroughly enjoyable intellectual romp" T. Times
RIK MAYALL **ADRIAN EDMONDSON**
WAITING FOR GODOT
By SAMUEL BECKETT
Directed by Lee Blair
Mon - Thur 8.00pm, Fri 8pm & 8.30pm Sat 4pm & 8pm
MUST CLOSE 14th DEC

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS 081 748 3354 cc 081 863 0331
2nd Dec - 4th Jan
FIONA SHAW as
ELECTRA
Dir by **DEBORAH WARNER**

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON 071 638 8891 cc Mon-Sun 9am-8pm
BARBICAN THEATRE
THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE
Tom't 7.30, Tomor 7.00, Thurs 2.00 & 7.30
THE PIT. THE BRIGHT AND BOLD DESIGN
Tom't 7.00, Tomor 7.30, Thurs 2.00 & 7.30
STRATFORD UPON AVON 01789 295623 cc Mon-Sat 9am-8pm)
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
JULIUS CAESAR
Tom't 7.30,

BBC 1

6.00 **Ceefax** 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
9.05 **Kilroy.** Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject **9.50 Hot Chefs.** Rosamund Grant prepares Caribbean baked chicken with joloff rice and sauce
10.00 **News,** regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays** (r) **10.25 Pinny's House.** Animated series (r) **10.35 The Clothes Show.** The "Dress of the Year" is unveiled at the Museum of Costume in Bath (r) (s)
11.00 **News,** regional news and weather **11.05 No Kidding.** Family quiz game presented by Mike Smith with Kate Copstick (s) **11.30 People Today** introduced by Miriam Stoppard. With **news,** regional news and weather at **12.00**
12.20 **Pebble Mill.** Music and entertainment from the foyer presented by Judi Spiers **12.55 Regional news** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather
1.30 **Neighbours.** (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Going for Gold.** Henry Kelly with another round of the quiz game with European contestants
2.15 **Snooker.** Sixth round action in the UK professional championship from the Guild Hall, Preston, introduced by David Vine
3.50 **Bodger and Badger.** Episode nine of the 12-part school comedy drama (s) **4.05 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse** (r) **4.20 Watt on Earth.** Episode six of the 12-part science fiction comedy thriller
4.35 **Now Then: The Dancing Stones.**
● CHOICE: The archaeology programme for children ends its current series among the prehistoric stone circles of Avebury in Wiltshire. As usual the burly archaeologist Francis Pryor and the somewhat leaner artist Paul Birkbeck tell the story with the help of dramatisations by local schoolchildren. If the determination to make a dry-sounding subject accessible to a young audience sometimes leads to forced jollity, this is a small price to pay. The programme is informative, without being a recital of facts, and makes serious points in an entertaining way. Thus when a new excavation near Avebury turns up 5,000 year old snails, the discovery is presented as not only fascinating in itself but a contribution to wider knowledge. The programme comes to a lively night-time climax in which the children enjoy themselves recreating a Stone Age battle ceremony
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Grange Hill.** Episode 18 of the 20-part drama set in a secondary school (r). (Ceefax) (s)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 **Regional News magazines.** Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Every Second Counts.** General knowledge quiz game show (s)
7.30 **EastEnders.** (Ceefax) (s)

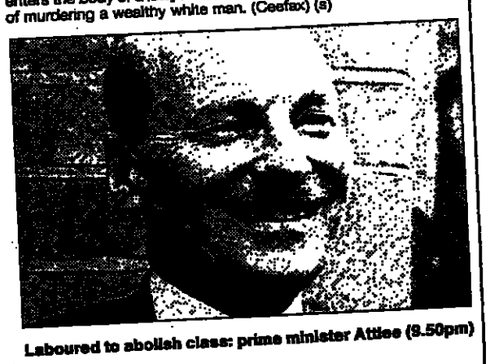


Old flames rekindled: Leonard Rossiter, Sue Nicholls (8.00pm)

8.00 **The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin.** As "Grot" continues to flourish, Reggie becomes involved with his old boss CJ, his secretary and the enthusiastic Tony and David. Starring Leonard Rossiter and Pauline Yates (r) (s)
8.30 **A Question of Sport** presented by David Coleman. This week the regular team captains Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by golfer Paul Broadhurst, cricketer Mike Atherton, footballer Steve McMahon and world snooker champion John Parrott. (Ceefax) (s)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 **Film: She Knows Too Much** (1989) starring Meredith Baxter-Birney, Robert Urich and Erik Estrada. A made-for-television comedy drama about a jewel thief who is released from prison early in order to partner an inept FBI agent. Their investigations lead them into the nether world of murder and political intrigue in Washington, DC. Directed by Paul Lynch. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Open House 10.05-11.30 Film: Red Sonja; Wales: Week In Week Out 10.00-11.30 Film: She Knows Too Much
11.00 **Film 91 with Barry Norman.** Includes reviews of *Hot Shots,* a naval spoof of *Top Gun,* and *Iron Maze,* set in a run-down Pennsylvania steel town where a billionaire Japanese plans to turn the local mill into an amusement park. There is also a report on the making of Steven Spielberg's cartoon feature *An American Tale: Fievel Goes West* (s)
11.30 **Snooker.** David Vine introduces action from the last two sbdh round matches in the UK professional championship from the Guild Hall, Preston **12.30 Weather**

BBC 2

6.00 **Breakfast News**
8.15 **Westminster.** A round up of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 **Daytime on 2:** Quinze Minutes **9.15** Lernexpress **9.30** Diez Temas **9.45** You and Me **10.00** Over the Moon **10.15** Look and read **10.35** Q and A: viewers' reactions to schools' programmes **10.40** Design and technology **11.00** Celebration food **11.15** English Express **11.35** Science Challenge **11.55** Into Music **12.15** Stop and Think **12.35** The Global Environment **12.55** A Way With Numbers **1.20** Bertha **1.35** Crystal Tipps and Alistair **1.40** Hawk's Eye on Rubbish **2.00 News** and weather followed by **You and Me.** Series for four and five-year-olds (r) **2.15 The History Man** Bryan McNerny visits Hadrian's Wall **2.20 Our Brilliant Careers.** A *40 Minutes* documentary about gifted children (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live.** Includes prime minister's question time **3.50 News,** regional news and weather
4.00 **Snooker.** Live coverage of the two remaining sixth round matches in the UK professional championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston
5.30 **The Victorian Flower Garden.** Harry Dodson provides the flowers for a reconstructed Victorian wedding. These include white roses, carnations and stephanotis for the bouquet, a white gardenia for the bride's hair and orange blossom to go on her dress; and Peter Thoday visits a Victorian rosarium at Warwick castle (r). (Ceefax) (s)
6.00 **Film: Tiger in the Smoke** (1956, b/w) starring Donald Sinden, Muriel Pavlow and Tony Wright. Thriller based on a Marjorie Allingham novel about a group of ex-servicemen turned criminals who search London for hidden wartime loot, look for an escaped murderer and put pressure on a young girl. Directed by Roy Baker
7.35 **Rally Report.** News from the third day of the Lombard RAC rally
7.40 **Prisoners of Conscience.** The former prime minster Edward Heath appeals on behalf of an imprisoned innocent
7.46 **Assignment: A Hard Landing.** Nick Clarke reports from Israel on the plight of the Soviet Jews who have recently arrived in the so-called promised land only to have their expectations dashed
8.30 **Food and Drink.** This week's edition includes a report on new evidence about the medicinal qualities of alcohol; Oz Clarke tastes some Antipodean wines; and there are two recipes incorporating beans and pulses (s)
9.00 **Quantum Leap.** Science fiction series starring Scott Bakula as a time-trapped scientist. This week he returns to 1957 Louisiana and enters the body of a lawyer defending a black woman on a charge of murdering a wealthy white man. (Ceefax) (s)

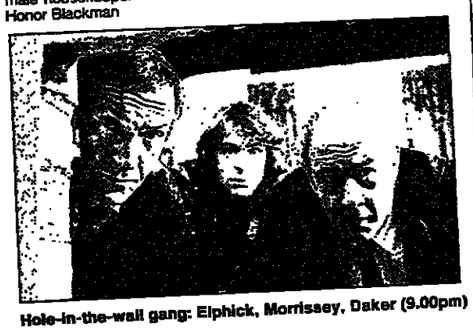


Laboured to abolish class: prime minister Attlee (9.50pm)

9.50 **Class Rule.**
● CHOICE: Michael Cockerell's four-part examination of the impact of class on post-war British politics threatens to collapse almost before it has started. Cockerell asks political stalwarts such as Barbara Castle, Roy Jenkins, Tony Benn and Margaret Thatcher which class they belong to. Not one gives a straight answer. Benn calls it a ridiculous question. From that point Cockerell abandons any attempt to define class. He settles instead for the easier job of recalling the social policies of the 1945 Labour government, which were supposed to abolish class distinctions. The verdict is that they failed, though the evidence is anecdotal and impressionistic. It is a pity that the sociologist, A.H. Halsey, an academic expert on class, was allowed only a couple of sentences. But it is an entertaining film, worth watching to learn what the Old Etonian Hugh Dalton called his fellow public schoolboy, Clement Attlee
10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 **The Late Show.** A photo special profiles the work of Eve Arnold, Snowdon and George Tice (s)
11.55 **Rally Report.** The lastest news from day three of the Lombard RAC rally
12.10am **Prisoners of Conscience.** A repeat of the programme shown at 7.40 **12.15 Weather**

ITV

6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **Jeopardy!** Steve Jones provides the answers, the contestants try to work out the questions in this back to front quiz game **9.55 Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time . . . the Place . . .** Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical matter (s)
10.40 **This Morning.** Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes consumer affairs, advice on finance and law and a visit to a lesser-known stately home. With national and international news at **10.55** and regional news at **11.55** followed by national weather
12.10 **Rod, Jane and Freddy** sing songs about food (r)
12.30 **News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather **1.10 Thames News** and weather
1.20 **Home and Away.** Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) **1.50 A Country Practice.** Medical drama serial set in a small Australian outback town (s)
2.20 **Take the High Road.** Soap set in the Highlands **2.50 Talkabout.** Quiz show for the loquacious, presented by Andrew O'Connor
3.15 **ITN News** headlines **3.20 Thames News** headlines **3.25 Families.** Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s)
3.55 **Rupert.** Animated adventures (s) **4.20 Hot Dog.** Puppet series **4.30 Cartoon** starring Daffy Duck (r) **4.40 Children's Ward.** Hospital drama series. (Oracle) (s)
5.10 **Blockbusters.** General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (s)
5.55 **Thames Help.** Jackie Spreckely with advice on BTec national courses
6.00 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle)
6.30 **Thames News.** (Oracle)
7.00 **Emmerdale.** Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
7.30 **Thames Reports: Shop Invaders.** Roger Beam reports on shops being broken in to and squatted in by illegal traders, and discovers a highly organised national network
8.00 **The Bill: The Whole Truth.** WPC Datta is in court for a drink/drive case that has been complicated by a mouth wash; and PC Garfield arrests a car thief and gets a bloody nose for his trouble (Oracle)
8.30 **The Upper Hand.** Feeble comedy series starring Joe McGann as a male housekeeper with a woman boss With Diana Weston and Honor Blackman



Hole-in-the-wall gang: Elphick, Morrissey, Daker (9.00pm)

9.00 **Boon.** Comedy drama starring Michael Elphick as the gullible private eye Ken Boon. Tonight he is taken for a ride when he accepts a security job from a wealthy couple who need their country house looked after for the weekend. With David Daker and Neil Morrissey. (Oracle)
10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart. (Oracle) Weather **10.30 Thames News** and weather
10.40 **Aids Update '91** presented by Ruby Wax. A girl who became HIV-positive when still at school talks about her experience
10.50 **Viewpoint 91: Hellfighters of Kuwait.** The story of how a group of firefighters tackled the numerous blazes caused by Saddam Hussein setting fire to Kuwait's oil wells
11.50 **Prisoner: Cell Block H.** Drama serial set in an Australian women's remand centre
12.40am **Video View.** The latest video releases reviewed by Mariella Frostrup and an interview with Alan Bleasdale about his Channel 4 series *GBH* which has just been released
1.10 **The Equalizer.** McCall is asked to help his former wife's husband. Starring Edward Woodward
2.00 **Donahue.** A discussion on why older men prefer women aged around the 30 mark
2.50 **Nite Bites.** Corned beef and cabbage stir-fry
3.00 **60 Minutes.** Award-winning American news magazine
4.00 **Entertainment UK.** A guide to the country's entertainment scene
5.00 **Three's Company.** American sitcom starring John Ritter
5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman. Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Nicholas Owen
12.30 **Business Daily.** The latest news from the world's money markets
1.00 **Sesame Street.** Early learning series
2.00 **Film: Three Strangers** (1946, b/w) starring Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre and Geraldine Fitzgerald. Entertaining melodrama about three strangers who become partners on a sweepstake ticket, an enterprise that leads to tragedy. Directed by Jean Negulesco
3.45 **Third Wave with Mavis Nicholson.** This week's edition of the magazine for the over-55s focuses on an international festival in Cologne earlier this year which brought together theatre for and by the over-fifties. The groups taking part includes Age Exchange, the over-fifties Theatre Werkstatt Theater, The from the UK, Germany's Freies Grandparents Living Theatre from the United States and Seusu from France. (Teletext)
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One.** Fast-moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s)
5.00 **If Wishes Were Horses.** The fifth of six programmes presented by Louise Hall-Taylor examining children's relationships with horses. Today's programme includes a visit to the Diamond riding centre which provides lessons for the disabled (s)
5.30 **Same Difference.** Magazine series on disabled matters. This edition reports on black peole with disabilities
6.00 **My Two Dads.** Tiresome comedy series from America about two bachelors who inherit a 12-year-old girl
6.30 **Happy Days.** Nostalgic comedy series evoking memories of 1950s Milwaukee, starring Henry Winkler as the super-cool Fonzie. This episode features a guest appearance by magician James Randi
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext) Weather
7.50 **Comment**



Playing ball: an African-American and Hassidic team (8.00pm)

8.00 **The Black Bag: Brooklyn — RIP.**
● CHOICE: A disquieting report from the crumbling wastelands of New York city charts the conflicts and tensions among the city's two most prominent ethnic groups The Jewish community, properly the Hassidic Jews, and the blacks, now known as African-Americans, live side by side and barely speak to each other. When a black child was killed in an accident involving the grand rabbi's motorcade there were riots for four days. The blacks allege police bias against them, while a Jewish leader retorts the cops favour the blacks. The story is not all bleak. Both communities are alarmed about drug pushing and have cooperated in setting up citizen groups to patrol the streets. Just as significant was the inhtiative of a community worker and a Hassid in organising mixed basketball games. It may seem a small step but it was unlikely enough to attract huge media coverage
8.30 **Down to Earth.** Archaeological magazine presented by Dr Catherine Hills. This week's edition includes an investigation of the mysterious brochs which stand on the remote shores of Orkney and the western Highlands; and a visit to the only grave of a black slave in Britain, in a Bristol churchyard (s)
9.00 **Without Walls: For Love or Money** presented live by Nicholas Ward-Jackson from the Tate Gallery for the presentation of the Turner Prize by art critic and broadcaster Robert Hughes. The four finalists are sculptors Anish Kapoor and Rachel Whiteread and painters Fiona Rae and Ian Devonport. There is also an interview with Roberto Polo, accused of funding his art collection by embezzlement
10.00 **Film: The Parade** (1984) starring Michael Learned and Frederic Forrest. A moving drama set in a small Kansas town as it prepares for a fourth of July parade. Emotions are stirred by the return of a man after serving a seven year prison sentence. Directed by Peter H. Hunt
11.45 **Empty Nest.** American comedy series starring Richard Mulligan of *Soap* fame as a recently widowed paediatrician with a Miami practice (s)
12.20am **Joe Cocker.** The singer recorded at the Sud West Funk studios in Baden Baden, Germany, during March 1988. Ends at **1.25**

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Anglia News 7.30-8.00 Food Guide

BORDER
As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Tuesday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Wide Angle 11.50 Film: More Than Murder (Stacy Keach, Lindsay Bloom) 1.35 Special Squad 2.30 Video View 3.00 60 Minutes 3.55 Night Beat 4.50 The Cure In Profile 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Central News 7.30-8.00 Voyager — The World of National Geographic 11.50 Film: The Psychopath 1.30 The Twilight Zone 2.25 Pacific Sportsworld 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 60 Minutes 4.20 Pick of the Week 4.50-5.30 Central Jobfinder '91

GRANADA
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 7.30-8.00 Flying Start 11.50 Film: Mike Hammer — More Than Murder (Stacy Keach, Lindsay Hoom, Don Stroud) 1.35 Special Squad 2.30 Video View 3.00 60 Minutes 3.55 Night Beat 4.50 The Cure In Profile 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Sullivans 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Simply the Best — A Celebration of British Food

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Away with Dai

SCOTTISH
As London except: 1.50pm Blockbusters 2.20-2.50 The Sullivans 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Scottish International 7.30-8.00 And They Called It Puppy Love 11.50 The Equalizer 12.45 Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War 1.15 Married...With Children 1.45 60 Minutes 2.45 Raw Power 3.45 The Twilight Zone 4.15 The Guldenburg Inheritance 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

TSW
As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Wild World of the East 3.23-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Families 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Keats and Dog 11.50 Film: Mike Hammer — More Than Murder 1.35 Special Squad 2.30-3.00 Video View 3.55 Night Beat 4.55 TSW Jobfinder 5.00-5.30 Farming Week

TVS
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Tell the Truth 11.50-12.40 Crime Story

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Northern Life Review 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 The Northern Business Awards 11.50 Film: Mike Hammer — More Than Murder 1.35 Special Squad 2.30 Video View 3.00 60 Minutes 3.55 Night Beat 4.50 The Cure In Profile 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Opening Nights 7.30-8.00 Green Pages 11.50 Film: Mike Hammer — More Than Murder 1.35 Special Squad 2.30 Video View 3.00 60 Minutes 3.55 Night Beat 4.50 The Cure In Profile 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Big Business 11.50 Murphy's Law 12.45 Crime Story 1.45 Video View 2.15 60 Minutes 3.10 Music Box New Sounds 4.10 About Britain 4.40-5.30 Jobfinder

S4C
Starts: 6.00am *C4 Daily* 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 The Parliament Programme 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen-to-One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Down to Earth 2.30 The Late Late Show 3.30 Wagon Train' 4.25 Slot 23 5.00 Kate and Allie 5.30 The Cosby Show 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Heno 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm 7.30 Dan Rufein 8.00 Tv Ar Wal 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Mozart 9.30 Snwcer — Pencampwriaeth Prydein 10.00 The Golden Girls 10.30 The Gravy Train Goes East 11.35 S & M 12.05 Secret History 1.05 Diwedd

RTE 1
Starts: 12.30pm Would You Believe 1.00 News 1.30 Aertel Financial Pages 1.35 Simply Painting 2.05 Perry Mason 3.00 Live At Three 4.00 News followed by Kate and Allie 4.30 Clayhanger 5.20 Red and Blue 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 Fair City 7.30 Head to Toe 8.00 Check Up 8.25 A Simply Delicious Christmas 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 Opening Nights 10.35 Private Lives 11.05 Trying Times 11.35 News 11.45 Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cúrsaí 7.30 Musicology 8.00 News followed by Larry Gogan's Golden Hour 9.00 May to December 9.30 News followed by E.N.G. 10.30 Nighthawks 11.00 News 11.20 Oireachtas Report 11.45 Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.55 Playabout 9.10 Cartoons 9.30 Mr Ed 10.00 Maude 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Barnaby Jones 1.30 Another World 2.15 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 The Brady Bunch 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Different Strokes 5.30 Bewitched 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 One False Move 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Baby Talk 8.00 Sheba Zulu: Third of a five-part mini series 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Hitchhiker 11.00 Police Story 12.00 Monsters 12.30am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
News on the hour.
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Newsline 8.00 Sunrise 9.30 Phone-In 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 Dayline Hour 12.30pm CBS News 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Our World 3.30 Our World: The Countryside Show 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Target 10.30 Newsline 11.30 CBS News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Target 3.30 Our World 4.30 Target

SKY MOVIES+
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 The Mirror Crack'd (1980). Agatha Christie whodunit starring Elizabeth Taylor
12.00 The Lady Vanishes (1979). Remake of the classic Hitchcock thriller starring Elliott Gould and Cybill Shepherd
2.00pm Bare Essentials (1990): An engaged New York couple is marooned on a tropical island
4.00 A Perfect Tribute (1990): American civil war adventure about a southern boy (Lukas Haas), who visits his wounded brother at Gettysburg
5.40 Entertainment Tonight
6.00 Fire: Trapped on the 37th Floor (1991): True story of two office workers trapped in the burning First Interstate Building in Los Angeles
8.00 Moon 44 (1990). Science fiction adventure set on a remote mining planet
10.00 Death Flash (1986): A vice cop (Jeremy Ney) murders his wife's lover
11.40 The Best of Martial Arts Movies (1989): Memorable fight scenes
1.10am Phantom of the Opera (1989): Robert England stars in a retelling of Gaston Leroux's tale
2.40 Inferno (1978): Supernatural tale starring Leigh McCloskey
4.25 Lambada — The Forbidden Dance (1988): A South American princess takes part in a lambada contest. Ends at 6.00

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.15am Captain January (1936, b/w): Shirley Temple resists separation from her lighthouse-keeper father
8.15 The Desert Rats (1988): Modern-day Western about a rebel who foils a bank robbery and is promoted to town sheriff
10.15 Perfect Furlough (1958): An Arctic soldier enjoys a holiday in Paris
12.15pm The Blue Bird (1940, b/w). Fairy-tale starring Shirley Temple
2.15 The Band Wagon (1953): A film star (Fred Astaire) stars in a Broadway musical
4.15 Pound Puppies and the Legend of Big Paw (1988): Cartoon adventure
6.15 Kiss Me Kate (1953): Cole Porter musical starring Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel
8.15 Presumed Guilty (1990): Martin Sheen campaigns for justice when his step-son is falsely accused of murder
10.05 Lord of the Flies (1990): A group of schoolboys is stranded on a desert island
11.40 sex, lies and videotape (1989): Drama about the personal and sexual hang-ups of four people. Starring James Spader
1.20am Third Degree Burn (1988): Private investigator Treat Williams is accused of murdering one of his clients
3.00 White Nights (1985): Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and American tap dancer Gregory Hines make a bid for freedom. Ends at 5.10

THE COMEDY CHANNEL
● Via the Astra satellite.
4.00pm Punky Brester 4.30 Petticoat Junction 5.00 The New Leave It To Beaver 5.30 Greenacres 6.00 Here's Lucy 6.30 F Troop 7.00 McHale's Navy 7.30 The Addams Family 8.00 Steptoe and Son 8.30 Night Court 9.00 Hogan's Heroes 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 Corrigan and Womack 10.30 Barney Miller 11.00 Kids in the Hall 11.30 Laugh In

SKY SPORTS
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.30am Aerobics 7.00 Nettbusters 7.30 Super Trax 8.30 Motor World 9.00 Aerobics 9.30 World of Adventure 10.30 RAC Rally Update 11.00 Assignment Adventure 12.00 Nettbusters 12.30pm World Cup Classics 2.00 The Big League 4.00 Kick-Boxing 5.00 American Sports Cavalcade 6.00 Motocrosse of Nations 7.00 Survival of the Fittest 7.30 ZDS Cup Football 10.00 Survival of the Fittest 10.30 RAC .Rally 11.00 Boxing Ringside 1.00am ZDS Cup Football

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
1.00pm World Cup Skiing 2.30 Eurofun Magazine 3.00 Tennis 5.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 6.00 Eurolympics 6.30 Skateboarding 7.00 Car Racing: DTM Season Review 8.00 RAC Rally Car Racing 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Wrestling 10.00 World Cup Bobsleigh 11.00 RAC Rally Car Racing 11.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 8.00 Winter Sportscast. Olympics '92 8.30 French Rugby League 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Vancouver Triathlon 11.00 NBA Basketball 12.30pm Revs 1.00 Powersports 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 3.00 BMW Golf Cup International 3.30 The Best of US Boxing 5.00 Brother Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics from Tokyo 6.00 Ladies Pro Bowlers 7.00 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 7.30 Spanish Football Highlights 8.00 Live Matchroom Pro Box 10.00 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 10.30 World Snooker Classics

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Everyday Work-out 11.25 Wok with Yan 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Body Talk 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.20 The Rich Also Cry 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Cyril Fletcher's Lifestyle Garden 2.55 Learned Friends 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 WKRP in Cincinnati 4.30 The Great American Gameshows 5.25 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

RADIO 3

.55am Weather; News Headlines
.00 Morning Concert: Byrd (Sing Joyfully); Tallis Scholars under Peter Phillips); J.S. Bach (Concerto in C minor, BWV 1060: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Heinz Holliger, oboe, with Gidon Kremer, violin); Sibelius (Suite champêtre: Gothenburg SO under Jarvi) 7.30 News
.35 Morning Concert (cont): Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Haydn, St Anthony Chorale: London PO under Boult); Spohr (Sehnsucht: Wiegenlied, Six German Songs, Op 103: Julia Varady, soprano, Hans Schöneberger, clarinet, Harmut Holl, piano); Weber (Konzertstück in F minor, Op 79: LSO under Abbado, with Alfred Brendel, piano): Strauss (Dance of the Seven Veils, Salome: Cleveland Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy)
.30 News
.35 Composers of the Week: J C Bach. March No 1; Sinfonia concertante in E flat; Sonata in C minor, Op 5 No 6: Oboe Concerto in F: Sinfonia in D, Op 18 No 4
.35 Morning Sequence: Praetorius, arr Archibald (Dances of Terpsichore: English Brass Ensemble); Brahms (Three Intermezzi, Op 117: Peter Wallfisch, piano); Debussy (Sonata for flute, viola and harp Jeux): Beethoven (Sonata in C minor, Op 111: Peter Wallfisch, piano); Jolivet (Petit Suite Jeux); Honegger (Sept pièces brèves: Jane Coop, piano); Arnold (Brass Quintet No 1: English Brass Ensemble)
.30 BBC Scottish SO under Alfred Walter performs Wagner (Prelude and Liebestod, Tristan and Isolde); Berg (Violin Concerto: Josef Suk); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A) 1.00pm News
.35 St David's Hall Recital: The pianist William Stephenson plays Scarlatti (Sonatas: in A flat, Kk 127: in A minor, Kk 54; in C Kk 159); Liszt (Sonetti del Petrarca 104); Tchaikovsky (Dumka, Op 59; June: December, The Seasons, Op 37b); Prokofiev (Sonata No 7, Op 83)
.00 Music Weekly (r)
.15 Stravinsky Conducts Stravinsky: Introitus, T.S. Eliot in memoriam (Gregg Smith Singers; Columbia Chamber Ensemble); The Dove Descending (Festival Singers of Toronto); Ballet, Orpheus (Chicago SO); Peter noster and Ave Maria (Festival Singers of Toronto); Four Russian Peasant Songs (Gregg Smith Singers; Members of Columbia SO); Credo (Gregg Smith Singers); Ballet, Apollo (Columbia SO); Threni, Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah (Soloists, Schola Cantorum; Columbia SO)
4.45 Israel Piano Trio performs Spohr (Trio No 3 in A minor, Op 124); Copland (Vitebsk, Study on a Jewish Theme) (r)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: Dave Elliott, director of the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, considers this year's Turner Prize shortlist
7.30 Pebble Mill: Live from Studio 1. The pianist Robert Taub performs Beethoven (Sonata in D, Op 28, Pastoral); Brahms (Seven Fantasies, Op 116).
8.15 The Vanishing Princess, or the Origins of Cubism. Hannah Gordon reads a story by Jenny Diski (r). **8.35** Berg (Sonata, Op 1); Scriabin (Two Preludes, Op 27; Sonata No 9 in F, Op 68, Black Mass); Chopin (Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23)
9.25 Drama Now: Sailing with Columbus
● CHOICE: Neil Rhodes's play about the spiritual odyssey of a selfish man is, to put it mildly, ambiguous. But because Rhodes writes so persuasively about a world in which the spiritual and the material are locked in conflict and in which self-fulfilment and consideration for others do not peacefully co-exist, we must assume that the ambiguity is by design and not accident. Indecision is at the heart of *Sailing with Columbus* as much as it is in *Hamlet*, though it is probably unwise to push the analogy too far
10.35 BBC Philharmonic under Rudolf Barshai performs Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 5 in E minor) (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Charles Ives (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day, with Canon Jim Monroe **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **5.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Call Nick Ross: 071-580 4411 on the subject of single European currency
10.00-10.30am Whip Hand (**FM** only): Third of a five-part dramatisation of Dick Francis's novel. With Mick Ford as Sid Halley (s)
10.00 News; Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Judges. Read by Ian Hogg (5 of 7)
10.30 Woman's Hour: John Morley and Jill Murphy discuss the benefits of pantomime over new plays for children; there is a report on circumcision; an interview with the Swiss flamenco dancer Nina Corti; and gardening tips for winter, incl **11.00** News
11.30 Medicine Now
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Smiley's People: Fifth of a seven-part adaptation of John le Carré's spy novel. With Bernard Hepton as George Smiley (s) (r) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty-Minute Theatre: Maiden City Magic, by Jack Houlahan. A young girl is fearful of her violent father and yearns for a magic wand to transform her life. With Anna Healy as Roberta and George Shane as Father (s)
2.30 Richard Baker Compares Notes with singers Roy Henderson and Sir Keith Falkner (s)
3.00 Requiem for Mozart (**FM** only): A Life in Letters and Music. Second of a four-part dramatised biography of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Alex Jennings). Written by Stanley Sadie (s)
3.47-4.00 Three Pairs of Ears (**FM** only): Peter White, the presenter of Radio 4's *In Touch* programme, looks at the quirkier side of blindness. In the second of five programmes, he paints an unsentimental picture of his children and their attitude to his blindness
3.00 News; Prime Minister's Questions (LW only)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope talks to the French bass clarinettist Louis Sclavis; peruses *The Journals* of the American writer John Cheever; listens to recordings by the conductor Otto Klemperer; reports on the European Literary Awards in Dublin; and reviews *The Chatto Book of Dissent* (s)
4.45 Short Story: Family, by Kate Roberts. Read by Menna Trussler
5.00 PM, with Valerie Singleton and Frank Partridge **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Beachcomber . . . by the Way: The further adventures of the characters created by the humorist J.B. Morton. With Richard Ingrams, John Wells, Patricia Routledge, John Sessions, Brian Perkins (s) (r)
7.00 News **7.05** The Archers
7.20 File on 4: Mark Halliley reports on prison reform
8.00 Science Now (r)
8.30 Age to Age: Barry Cunliffe examines how urban and rural depopulation can destroy valuable sources of social history (r)
9.00 In Touch reports on blind people who are unable to obtain talking books because of council cutbacks
9.30 Kaleidoscope (s) (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight, with Roger White (s) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Alexander McLeod (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: What Hetty Did, by J.L. Carr. Read by Hetty Baynes (5 of 10) (r)
11.00 The Radio Programme, with Laurie Taylor (s) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.45am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Gary King (FM only) 6.00 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies Says.. Let's Do Lunch 3.00 Steve Wright 5.30 News '91 **5.00** Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier 9.00 Be My Baby — The Ronnie Spector Story The Dream Ronnie Spector, the lead singer of the Ronettes, talks to Richard Skinner about her career and her relationship with Phil Spector (1 of 2) (r) 10.00 Nicky Campbell Goes into the Night 12.00-4.00am Bob Harris (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am Alex Lester. The Early Show 6.00 Martin Kelner 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Mark Wynter 11.00 Anne Robinson 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Debbie Thrower 4.00 Bobby Crush 5.05 John Dunn's Answers Please 7.

Prison escape plot foiled

BY PETER DAVENPORT AND STEWART TENDLER

AN IRA quartermaster's plan to escape from one of Britain's maximum security prisons with four other inmates was foiled at the last moment, it was disclosed yesterday.

Officers at Full Sutton prison, near York, discovered a caché of escape equipment, including grappling irons and makeshift ladders made from broken furniture and sheets, in a cell on B wing during Sunday lunchtime. Tools, including screwdrivers, which could have been used as weapons, were also discovered. Armed police were drafted in and kept watch throughout the night in case any outside plotters arrived to help.

The Home Office yesterday refused to identify the prisoners involved, all of whom have category A status, but one is Nicholas Mullen, convicted in June 1990 as the man who organised an IRA bomb factory in Clapham, south London.

Jailing him for 30 years at the Old Bailey last year, Mr Justice Hidden QC said Mullen combined a high degree of criminal cunning with commitment to a political cause. His sentence was the most severe handed out to anyone convicted of aiding the IRA on the mainland.

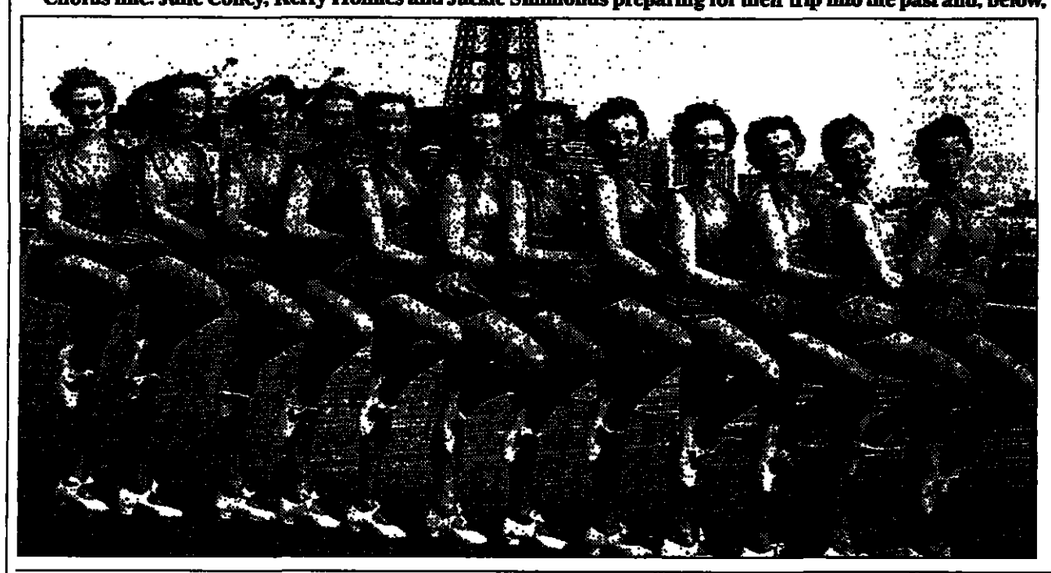
Yesterday, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, sent a message of congratulation to John Staples, the governor, praising his intelligence operation. "After some security intelligence over the weekend," said Mr Staples, "we targeted the searching in the main part of the prison and once we were satisfied the time was right to strike, we did so. As a result, our staff discovered escape equipment. As a result of the operation, some determined, highly dangerous people have had their escape plot foiled."

After the discovery, one of the inmates, believed to be Mullen, has been transferred to another prison, and another man has been charged. Mr Staples said the operation had involved special intelligence officers at the prison whose job it was to collate information from staff, prisoners and outside sources.

Full Sutton, which opened in 1987, has 480 inmates and was used to house Iraqi detainees during the Gulf war.



Chorus line: Julie Colley, Kerry Holmes and Jackie Simmonds preparing for their trip into the past and, below, the Tiller Girls of 1952



All Girls together

HIGH-KICKING elegantly down memory lane, 16 Tiller Girls, now aged 42 to 52, yesterday put the finishing touches to their routines for this year's Royal Variety Performance. They went swiftly through the steps which made the troupe a household name in the 1950s. (Matthew d'Ancona writes).

Disbanded in 1974, the Tillers reunited last year. The recipe of sequins and feathers has not changed, but the regime is not as demanding as it used to be, when the dancers rehearsed until 1am and rarely had a social life. Most of the Tillers now have families and careers and one or two are grandmothers.

Tories slap down Thatcher

Continued from page 1

mattered, at the heart of Europe, and to negotiate best for Britain. Both he and Chris Patten, the party chairman, earlier had taken advantage of Commons appearances to reject a referendum and remind MPs of Mrs Thatcher's earlier opposition to them.

Conservative central office also released a speech delivered in Tokyo by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, hailing the achievements of his first year and saying that the country could have no more determined leader "to guide it through the complex and crucial days that lie ahead".

The three ministers are all members of the inner cabinet strategy group that meets daily and advises Mr Major.

As his colleagues went into action the prime minister appeared to be biding his time for a showdown with Mrs Thatcher, probably after the Maastricht summit. The message from Downing Street was that Mr Major intended to concentrate on getting the best deal from the summit, and that critics should see what emerged before making judgments.

Conservative MPs returned to Westminster yesterday voicing anger over Mrs Thatcher's outburst against Mr Major and she appeared to have lost support among ministers and MPs who have remained loyal to her since she left office.

Simply wrong, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15

EC falls out of step

Continued from page 1

send a "more traditional" UN force, using soldiers from countries such as Ireland, Norway and Finland.

Contingency plans already drawn up by the UN are partly based on the work carried out by the Western European Union, which has also considered sending a peacekeeping force. Britain's role could be limited to the deployment of warships to help to bring out refugees, and possibly providing communications units

Meanwhile, hundreds of Belgrade taxi drivers gave a heroes' welcome to the Serb reservists and militias returning from Vukovar. A convoy of army lorries, tanks and armoured vehicles was greeted by people firing wildly in the air.

Such feelings were not shared by some 600 Serb reservists, who staged public protests in Smederevo, about 20 miles east, and told stories of chaos and disorganisation.

Ceasefire mocked, page 11

Political sketch

Peers take an island fling

CALLING for a referendum is rather like threatening to go home to mother. It is not necessarily going to happen, but it does make people sit up and listen.

Their Lordships understand that. In a long and intense debate on Maastricht yesterday, referendums were treated with scepticism. So was Europe. Their Lordships' real passion was reserved for "these islands".

Personally, your sketch writer has found that a tendency to talk about "these islands," like muttering to yourself on the bus or carrying your possessions in a pramful of plastic bags, is a worrying sign. Peers do it at the least provocation.

"These islands" surfaced early, though not in Lord Waddington's speech. Waddington would make a splendid Tory home secretary. He once did. Or he might try his hand as a primary school headmaster of the old-fashioned sort, for his speaking style is punctuated by many a silent "*tiwack*".

Failing that, he could easily do the talkback on one of those shady 0898 porno chat-lines, where a "disciplinarian" is desired, for there is gruff reproach in every syllable. But he is not *quite* right for leader of the House of Lords. He tends to lay down the law in prosaic manner, and is a little short on pomp and circumstance.

For his Lordship yesterday, Maastricht was "my strict" ("my strict *what*?" we kept wondering). His argument was phrased in schoolmasterly terms — (A) this and (B) that — more suitable for schoolchildren than for their parents at speech day, which this was.

Policy, Waddington said, should be "an end in itself, not the means to a more distant goal". It was "the call to pragmatism". It sounded rather desparate. Rather than agonise over the destination, he concluded, we should "ensure that each step we take is useful and workable in itself". Many a hedgehog approaching a six-lane highway, one reflected, has comforted himself with such a thought.

For the Opposition, this was Welsh Night at the Labour club. Welsh debaters are always in demand where the requirement is for oratory of an elevated kind at the level of general principle but avoiding any practical difficulties.

The Opposition's approach to Maastricht involves precisely this requirement, and Wales came triumphantly to the rescue. Their leader, the decent and sensible Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, spoke amiably of the "exciting prospect," the "pointless haggling", the "positive proposals which would be better than negative reactions".

He sounded so nice. At the end of a Cledwyn oration one is seldom much the wiser about Opposition policy, but very convinced that Lord Cledwyn is a perfect poppet.

Mind you, Lord Tonypandy is right in there in the niceness stakes, scrumming with the best of them. He spoke after Lord Callaghan — "following an old friend," he said, in a next-door Cardiff constituency. It was "an especial privilege". "We were," he said, "for forty years ..." What? Sworn enemies, I'd heard. Apparently not. Within seconds we were into "these islands". Lord Tonypandy was not happy about Europe.

Of Lord Callaghan it is harder to say. Speaking of what he called the "European Rate Mechanism," he made the kind of speech you or I might make. It was impossible to know, he told us, where we would all be in 1996, or indeed at any future date. One agreed, but from a former foreign secretary and prime minister somehow one had hoped for more.

By contrast, Lord Cockfield was genuinely informative. "My own views are so well known to your Lordships that it is unnecessary to repeat them," he began hopefully, but he did, anyway. This was fortunate. Unusually with politicians, one senses that Cockfield really understands his subject and views it with independent mind. He speaks with a sneering arrogance born of genuine superiority.

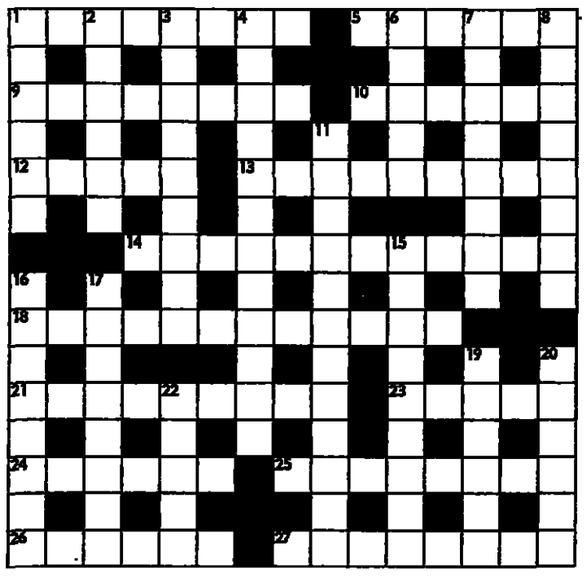
Lord (Keith) Joseph was winning, thoughtful and somehow delightfully batty, as usual. He was no financier or banker, he said. "My worries are those of the layman". He felt "wistful" about a stable currency. And he warned that a central European bank "would contain Greeks, Portuguese and Italians".

Here his Lordship paused, tolerantly: "Noble peoples in their way, but not ideal to be put in charge of a single central bank".

A sentiment, I suppose, which might be widely shared on "these islands".

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,773



ACROSS

1 Title-holder has a biography to look at (4,4).
5 Treacherous sort who haunted "The Eagle" (6).
9 Card not quite complete — it makes one spin (8).
10 Portrait-painter depicting first of many wearing eye make-up (6).
12 High sort of layer in duck area (5).
13 Single girl's best friend? (9).
14 Pluck violins with deepest feeling (12).
18 Military band to carry ammunition (8-4).
21 Poets near collapse in this language? (9).
23 Flat fare from Holland? (5).
24 Single valetudinarian dramatist (6).
25 This reptile is around no longer (8).
26 Liquid dose for cow, perhaps, or duck? (6).
27 Grandmother a sucker for this thin porcelain? (8).

DOWN

1 Hurt in long row back (6).
2 Colours available for liquor-jug? (6).
3 Gunpowder substitutes by degrees (9).
4 Girl up in Queen Street almost thrown out (12).
6 Formal order of the dictionary (5).
7 Live tennis — and from France — broadcast (8).
8 "Bounty" — sizeable vessel travelling east (8).
11 Schooner, say, departing quickly — it's an artisan's craft (5-7).
15 Conscientious, like a churchgoing sort (9).
16 Space-traveller, a carrier of vitamin D (8).
17 Perfect whole (8).
19 As copper on duty, he provides a service (6).
20 Hardy comrade filmed in the bay? (6).
22 Keepsake of priest held in church (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,772

D	R	A	G	O	M	A	N	■	S	P	E	L	L	S
R	■	L	■	M	■	G	■	S	■	R	■	H	■	W
E	V	O	K	E	■	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	E
S	■	N	■	G	■	O	■	R	■	V	■	S	■	D
S	I	G	N	A	T	U	R	E	■	I	N	A	N	E
A	■	S	■	■	■	N	■	S	■	D	■	■	■	S
G	R	I	E	V	E	D	■	S	T	E	P	P	E	■
E	■	D	■	I	■	■	■	N	■	T	■	S	■	■
■	M	E	R	C	E	R	■	E	X	T	R	A	C	T
S	■	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	■	R	■	A	■	■
T	A	P	E	R	■	C	H	A	R	W	O	M	A	N
U	■	O	■	I	■	O	■	S	■	A	■	I	■	D
P	L	U	T	O	C	R	A	T	■	S	I	G	M	A
O	■	N	■	U	■	D	■	I	■	T	■	A	■	R
R	A	D	I	S	H	■	S	C	R	E	E	N	E	D

Concise Crossword, page 17

WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

FLIRTY-FISHING
a. Dry fly fishing
b. Kerb-crawling
c. Softening up a convert

YALE
a. To imprison
b. An upper class yahoo
c. A fabulous beast

ECDYSIS
a. Induced ecstasy
b. Cutting out
c. Undressing

AYU
a. A primitive type of man
b. A female witch doctor
c. A small edible fish

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

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M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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THE LAST WORD IN CIGARS
CHAMBORD
COMPLIMENTS OF HENRI WINTERMANS

WEATHER

Patchy rain in the South-East will extend across much of England and Wales, before giving way to sunny spells. During the afternoon and evening, the cloud and rain in the South-East will edge into southwestern England and Wales and parts of northern England. It will be a mild day everywhere, but windy in the north, with some gales at first. Outlook: further rain likely for most parts. Windy at times, especially in the north and west.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=log; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Majorca	18	64	s
Akrotiri	23	73	f	Malaga	17	63	s
Alex'dria	23	73	f	Malta	18	64	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Melb'rne	34	93	s
Amst'dm	1	34	c	Mexico C*	12	54	s
Athens	20	68	s	Miami*	25	77	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Milan	13	55	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Montreal*	5	41	r
Barbados*	29	79	r	Moscow	3	37	c
Barcelona	14	57	s	Munich	3	37	c
Beirut	24	75	s	Nairobi	24	75	f
Belgrade	13	55	c	Naples	13	55	f
Berlin	3	37	c	N Delhi	23	73	s
Bermuda*	25	77	s	N York*	12	54	c
Biarritz	18	64	f	Nice	14	57	s
Borde'x	9	48	r	Oslo	7	45	d
Brussels	3	37	c	Paris	6	41	r
Budapest	10	50	r	Peking	3	37	s
B Aires*	18	64	f	Perth	19	66	r
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Prague	1	34	c
Chicago*	-3	27	sn	Reykjavik	0	32	c
Ch'church	17	63	f	Rhodes	20	68	f
Cologne	4	39	c	Rio de J	30	86	s
C'phagn	7	45	c	Riyadh	25	77	s
Corfu	17	63	f	Rome	12	54	f
Dublin	13	55	s	Salzburg	3	37	c
Faro	19	66	s	S F'risco*	14	57	f
Florence	11	52	f	Santiago*	22	72	s
Frankfurt	3	37	c	S Paulo*	31	88	s
Funchal	19	66	c	Seoul	7	45	s
Geneva	5	41	s	Sing'por	27	81	r
Gibraltar	16	61	s	St'kholm	8	46	c
Helsinki	6	43	d	Strasb'rg	4	39	c
Hong K	20	68	s	Sydney	22	77	s
Innsbruck	6	43	s	Tangier	20	72	s
Istanbul	18	64	s	Tel Aviv	26	79	s
Jeddah	35	95	s	Tenerife	21	70	s
Jo'burg*	23	73	s	Tokyo	11	54	s
Karachi	28	82	c	Toronto*	0	32	sn
L Palmas	21	70	s	Tunis	17	63	s
La Tquet	5	41	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Lisbon	16	61	f	Vanc'ver*	7	45	r
Locarno	9	48	f	Venice	12	54	s
London	7	45	c	Vienna	7	45	c
L Angels*	22	72	s	Warsaw	3	37	d
Luxembg	1	34	c	Wash'ton*	10	50	f
Luxor	31	88	s	Wel'mton	17	63	s
Madrid	7	45	c	Zurich	4	39	c

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.315	2.165
Austria Sch	21.15	19.65
Belgium Fr	61.60	57.85
Canada $	2.17	2.01
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.86
Finland Mkk	8.26	7.66
France Fr	10.20	9.50
Germany Dm	2.965	2.785
Greece Dr	317.00	322.00
Hong Kong $	14.54	13.54
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.05
Italy Lire	2265.00	2115.00
Japan Yen	247.50	228.50
Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.14
Norway Kr	11.81	11.01
Portugal Esc	263.00	245.00
South Africa Rd	5.15	4.55
Spain Pta	189.50	176.50
Swedish Kr	11.03	11.03
Switzerland Fr	2.85	2.46
Turkey Lira	9100.00	8300.00
USA $	1.90	1.77
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	40.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

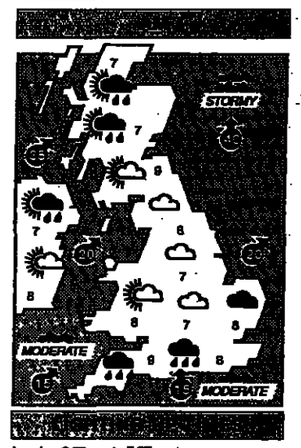
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	10	50	dull
Anglesey	0.1	-	11	52	cloudy
Aviemore	1.2	-	11	52	cloudy
Belfast	-	0.10	11	52	rain
Birmingham	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Bognor Regis	2.4	-	10	50	cloudy
Bournemouth	1.9	-	11	52	bright
Bristol	0.5	-	11	52	cloudy
Cardiff	-	-	10	50	drizzle
Clacton	3.9	-	9	48	bright
Colwyn Bay	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Douglas	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Eastbourne	2.8	-	8	46	bright
Exmouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Folkestone	5.1	0.04	7	45	sunny
Glasgow	-	0.15	11	52	rain
Guernsey	2.0	-	9	48	sunny
Hastings	3.3	0.01	8	46	bright
Hunstanton	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Jersey	4.6	-	8	46	bright
Kinloss	0.4	-	13	55	cloudy
Leeds	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.01	10	50	rain
Littlehampton	2.3	-	11	52	bright
London	1.9	-	10	50	bright
Lowestoft	3.2	-	9	48	bright
Manchester	0.1	-	10	50	cloudy
Minehead	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Newcastle	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Newquay	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Nottingham	0.1	-	9	48	cloudy
Penzance	1.0	-	11	52	cloudy
Plymouth	-	-	11	52	dull
Poole	1.4	-	12	54	cloudy
Sandown	2.4	-	11	52	sunny
Scarborough	2.1	-	8	46	cloudy
Scilly Isles	0.6	-	12	54	gale
Shanklin	2.2	-	11	52	bright
St. Ives	0.7	-	11	52	cloudy
Stornoway	-	0.59	11	52	rain
Swanage	1.6	-	11	52	cloudy
Teignmouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Tenby	0.1	-	11	52	cloudy
Torquay	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Worthing	0.6	-	10	50	cloudy

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heresfds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

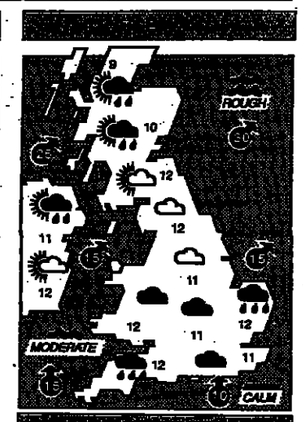
Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times



London 2.59 pm to 7.37 am
Bristol 4.09 pm to 7.47 am
Edinburgh 3.50 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 3.59 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.27 pm to 7.59 am

Sun rises: 7.36 am
Sun sets: 3.59 pm
Moon sets 11.38 am
Moon rises 9.14 pm
Last quarter November 28

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.29 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.3 hr.



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

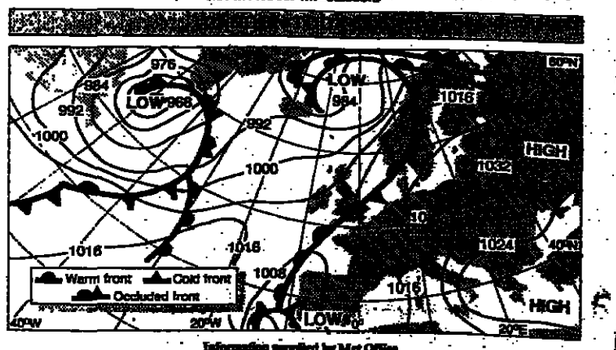
	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	12	54	c	Guernsey	8	46	c
B'ingham	7	45	r	Inverness	9	48	f
Blackpool	7	45	f	Jersey	7	45	f
Bristol	9	48	c	London	7	45	c
Cardiff	12	54	s	M'chester	7	45	c
Edinburgh	11	52	c	Newcastle	5	41	c
Glasgow	9	48	f	R'nldsway	12	54	c

Sunday: Highest day temp: Inverness and Dalcross, Highland, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Anvil Green, Kent, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Benbecula, Western Isles, 0.91 in; highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent, 5.7 hr.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.23	7.0	4.52	7.2
Aberdeen	4.09	4.2	4.16	4.2
Avonmouth	9.57	12.9	10.28	12.4
Belfast	1.37	3.2	1.55	3.5
Cardiff	9.42	11.9	10.13	11.5
Devonport	6.34	5.3	9.06	5.0
Dover	1.27	6.5	1.48	6.4
Falmouth	8.04	5.1	8.36	4.8
Glasgow	3.25	4.7	3.53	5.3
Harwich	2.15	3.9	2.43	4.0
Holyhead	12.48	5.4	1.07	5.5
Hull	9.04	7.2	9.14	7.2
Ilfracombe	8.39	9.0	9.11	8.5
King's Lynn	9.19	6.4	9.26	6.4
Leith	5.19	5.5	5.48	5.4

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	1.42	9.2	2.04	9.2
Lowestoft			12.28	2.4
Margate	2.30	4.7	3.03	4.8
Milford Haven	9.00	6.8	9.31	6.4
Newquay	7.58	6.8	8.25	6.5
Oban	6.10	3.9	6.58	3.6
Penzance	7.39	5.4	8.14	5.1
Portland	9.34	2.2	10.21	1.9
Portsmouth	1.58	4.7	2.10	4.6
Shoreham	1.45	6.2	2.02	6.0
Southampton	1.28	4.5	1.40	4.4
Swansea	9.01	9.2	9.31	8.8
Tees	6.26	5.2	6.41	5.3
Wilton-on-Nse	2.06	4.1	2.36	4.2

Tide in metres: 1m=3.28ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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هكذا من الاصل

- BUSINESS NEWS 21-28
- LAW TIMES 29,31
- LAW REPORT 32
- SPORT 34-38

THE TIMES

BUSINESS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1991

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

TODAY IN BUSINESS

BUSY LINES



Busy lines at Vodafone meant half-time profits up from £122 million to £140 million and a credit balance, said **Gerry Whent**, chief executive
Page 23

UNHEALTHY

Private medicine is having problems. One year's premiums cover just three nights in a private hospital, but the elderly will bear the brunt of the premium increases
Page 25

HOUSEBOUND



The recession has created a shortfall of a million homes in the Nineties, **Sir Clifford Chetwood**, chairman of Wimpey, told a building conference
Page 22

OBJECTING

Peter Clowes, former head of Barlow Clowes, told an Old Bailey jury yesterday that describing his business as a "team of thieves" was objectionable
Page 23

EXTENDING



Michael Howard, the employment secretary, plans to extend the government's Training Credits scheme to a fifth of British school-leavers
Page 25

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7975 (–0.0005)
German mark
2.8481 (–0.0044)
Exchange index
90.6 (–0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1876.3 (+9.5)
FT-SE 100
2456.2 (+9.9)
New York Dow Jones
2694.01 (–8.72)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
22968.69 (–248.70)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10½%
3-month interbank 10¹⁵/₁₆-10⁷/₈%
3-month eligible bills 10¹¹/₃₂-10⁵/₁₆%
US: Prime Rate 7½%
Federal Funds 4¹³/₁₆%*
3-month Treasury Bills 4.43-4.42%*
30-year bonds 100⁵/₃₂-100¹³/₃₂*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7995	£ $1.7995*
£: DM2.8486	$ DM1.5825*
£: SwFr2.5346	$ SwFr1.4085*
£: FFr9.7362	$ FFr5.4113*
£: Yen229.89	$: Yen127.76*
£: Index 90.6	$: Index 82.4
£: ECU1.402337	SDR £0.777356
£: ECU1.402337	£: SDR1.286411

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $358.40 pm $369.10
close $358.90-359.40 ($205.00-205.50)
New York:
Comex $358.65-359.15*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) $19.80 bbl ($19.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.1 October (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Treasury statement causes confusion

Central bank buying helps pound revive

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

STERLING rebounded strongly yesterday morning after the Bundesbank and Bank of France openly entered the foreign exchange markets to buy sterling for marks. Fears of a sterling crisis were rekindled, however, when the currency fell sharply again in afternoon trading, responding to a confusing statement from the Treasury, which denied there had been international support for the pound.

Traders described sterling's roller-coaster ride in the markets as probably the most confusing day since ERM entry last October. By the end of trading in London, the pound stood at DM2.8480, marginally down on Friday's London close, but its movements ranged from a weak opening at DM2.84 to a peak of DM2.8580, just after the Bundesbank bought roughly £30 million for marks. The Bank of France bought an estimated £20 million at about the same time in Paris, encouraging market hopes of a co-ordinated European campaign to help sterling.

Even more important than the rise above DM2.85, according to currency experts in several banks and official institutions, was a clear break by the pound through the strong technical resistance at $1.80. As sterling soared against the dollar to $1.8080 immediately after the Bundesbank and Bank of France orders, several technical analysts, whose views tend to dominate short-term currency trading, began to reconsider their overwhelmingly bearish attitudes to the pound.

However, traders became suspicious about the authorities' determination to boost sterling when they noted no signs of buying by the Bank of England. As sterling was already coming off its lunchtime peaks, the markets were then stunned by a statement from Brussels on behalf of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Asked about reports from dealers that the Bundesbank had intervened to support sterling, Mr Lamont's spokesman said: "I understand the Bundesbank placed a large order. It wasn't intervention, it was executing an order." The Treasury and Bundesbank refused to comment on who might have placed the large sterling order, but traders speculated that the most likely "customer" was the Bank of England itself.

The Bank also refused to comment, but government officials conceded that the only customers the Bundesbank was likely to serve in the foreign exchange markets were other central banks or international institutions such as the European Community. Dealers said that customers like these would never place a large order for sterling at a time of extreme currency volatility without clearing its actions with the Bank first.

None the less, the Treasury's unusual denial of any deliberate intervention by the Bundesbank sent the pound reeling back towards its opening levels, as some concluded that the British and European governments had no plans to defend sterling after all. It ended London trading at DM2.8480 and well below dollar resistance at $1.7975.

Traders described events as a "dismal failure" if the government's intention had been to raise confidence in sterling. It had "simply drawn attention to the pound's weakness", one dealer said. Another said the Bundesbank would not have behaved so ambiguously in defence of the mark: "This whole thing was typical of the Bank of England and its obsession with secrecy. When the Bundesbank wants to send a signal to the market they let traders know damned well what they are doing. But the Bank of England always tries to operate by nefarious means, and often it doesn't work."

Comment, page 25

Forecast of 1.8% growth in 1992

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economy will achieve only sluggish, below-capacity growth in 1992, after a steep decline this year, according to the latest survey by the Society of Business Economists. Rising unemployment and the depressed housing market are still dampening consumer spending.

The society paints a much gloomier picture than the Chancellor in his autumn statement. Mr Lamont predicted a 2 per cent fall in gross domestic product this year and 2.25 per cent growth in 1992; but the business economists' forecasting group expects 2.4 per cent shrinkage this year and only 1.8 per cent growth in 1992. The results of a questionnaire to member economists show that 52 per cent of respondents expect growth of 1 to 2 per cent next year. About a third expect faster growth. But 14 per cent foresee almost no pick-up at all.

The forecasting group predicts that, as a result of slow adjustment to the European exchange-rate mechanism, average annual growth between 1992 and 2001 will be 2.5 per cent in real terms. Unemployment will average 2.3 million until 1997, before falling to 1.9 million.

The main factors behind the expected modest pickup in activity next year are identified as a small increase in consumer spending and reduced rundown of stocks.

The economists expect consumer spending to increase by 1.5 per cent next year, a percentage point less than the Chancellor forecast, after a 1.1 per cent drop in 1991.



MICHAEL POWELL

Breathing space: Kevin Maxwell, centre, and his brother, Ian, are relieved after yesterday's meeting

Banks agree to give Maxwells time to draw up recipe for reconstruction

BY NEIL BENNETT AND ANGELA MACKAY

ALL Maxwell family private assets, including the 51% stake in Mirror Group Newspapers, are up for sale, Kevin Maxwell admitted to a meeting of bankers yesterday.

"There are no sacred cows," he said, in his presentation, but the MGN stake would be "the last to go".

The meeting was also told that the family needs a £5 million cash injection to stave off collapse. Their bankers, owed £800 million, have agreed to support the private businesses and are considering the plea for £5 million in new loans while a detailed programme of reconstruction, including major asset sales, is drawn up.

A steering committee of five banks, led by NatWest, was appointed at the meeting. The committee will report back to the rest of the 28 banks next Tuesday when a decision will be made on whether to extend more credit to the Maxwells and freeze debt repayments.

Headington Investments and Robert Maxwell Group, the two key family companies, are thought to need a cash injection of up to £30 million by next spring depending on disposals. The £5 million is needed almost immediately however to ease cash flow.

Kevin Maxwell, who succeeded his father, Robert, as chairman of Maxwell Communications Corporation, and his brother Ian, chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, have appointed NM Rothschild as the family's merchant bank adviser to work in concert with Bankers Trust, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the companies' auditor, have been retained to advise the banks.

The stock market reacted positively to the banks' support. Shares in MCC, in which the family has a 68 per cent. stake rose 8p to end at 44p while Mirror Group, 51 per cent controlled by the Maxwells, held at 125p.

Two reports prepared by Bankers Trust and Coopers & Lybrand at the request of the family were presented during the meeting. One banker who attended said: "There were quite hefty documents to digest quickly but there appears to be enough positive information to show that the family businesses are not about to melt down." The reports showed the companies have a surplus of unsecured assets of up to £180 million.

John Melbourn, the NatWest director who chaired the meeting, said: "The meeting... was conducted in a sensible atmosphere with clear opening remarks from Kevin Maxwell and an excellent presentation from Coopers & Lybrand. In the circumstances we achieved all we could hope for today."

Kevin Maxwell said: "It was, from our point of view, extremely constructive, very helpful and frank. The banks have agreed to form a steering committee to look in a level-headed way at our companies' proposals."

The biggest threat to the family's financial salvation was from Swiss Bank Corporation which called for the repayment of a £55 million loan and inspired a Serious Fraud Office investigation. Robert Maxwell is believed to have sold a share portfolio promised as security.

Swiss Bank, however, fell into line and agreed to take "no precipitate action" while the talks were underway. The steering committee, comprising Natwest, Midland, Lloyds, Banque Paribas (Switzerland) and Sumitomo, will continue meeting all this week.

Comment, page 25

Ultramar cuts notice period

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ULTRAMAR, the oil company that is fighting a £1.16 billion hostile bid from Lasmo, has responded to strong criticism of its directors' remuneration arrangements by cutting their notice period from six years to three years.

The move comes 24 days after John Darby, the chairman, and Lord Remnant, the deputy chairman of Ultramar, resigned. Their resignations were seen at the time as a reponse to the row over Ultramar's service packages for directors. But there was further criticism over the £680,000 paid to Mr Darby and the £95,000 paid to Lord Remnant as compensation for loss of office.

Michael Beckett, the acting chairman, has written to shareholders to tell them that all the executive directors have agreed to the change in notice period. In future, a severance bonus will only be paid on death, disability or bona fide retirement on grounds of age.



Beckett: drop in salary

The company has also decided that pay increases will be mostly in the form of discretionary bonuses that will reflect the performance of the group and the contribution made by individual directors. The formula for the bonus is still being debated. Mr Beckett said he intended to put it to shareholders at the annual meeting, assuming Ultramar wins the bid.

Speaking from America, Mr Beckett said he had not worked out the global figure for severance but it represented a significant saving to the company. Some reports put the directors' payoffs as high as £20 million prior to yesterday's changes.

"I've abolished the non-executive's contracts. In future, they will get a fee in line with other FT-SE 100 non-executives. That is between £12,000 and £17,500."

Mr Beckett, who is looking to recruit a permanent chairman, said his own salary would fall from roughly £21,500 to £17,500.

Dawson to review pricing

THE price of cashmere jumpers could come down next year, says Dawson International, the clothing group whose luxury brands include Ballantyne and Pringle.

Economic recession has prompted falls in the price of cashmere fibre of up to 20 per cent. "We will be more aggressive in our prices for our autumn 1992 range," said Nick Kuenssberg, chief executive of UK operations.

Dawson reported pre-tax profits of £16.2 million for the six months to end-September, down only 6.4 per cent. But Ronald Miller, chairman, said the second half could be difficult. The dividend stayed at 2.9p.

Tempus, page 24

The dangers of playing Footsie

BY GEORGE SIVELL

WHAT do the following companies have in common: Polly Peck, British and Commonwealth, Saatchi and Saatchi, Next, Burton, Ferranti, MFI and Magnet and Southerns?

The somewhat surprising answer is that they were all once members of the FT-SE 100, the index set up by the Stock Exchange in December 1983, to monitor more accurately the performance of the leading companies in the UK and, more importantly, provide a basis for futures trading.

Certainly, the effect of entry to the FT-SE 100 index can be startling as NFC, the worker buyout company privatised and then floated on the stockmarket, discovered yesterday. NFC rose 10p to 233p, a recognition of the newly acquired desirability of the shares, which will now be sought by the hordes of fund managers who justify their existence merely by tracking the performance of the leading shares indices.

Ironically, shares in Reuters rose yesterday also. They are already part of the FT-SE 100 but are to join the FT-30 index as well. The FT-SE 100, a simple arithmetic index (the fundamental part of the calculation involves adding up the weighted share prices and dividing by 100) was supposed to supersede the FT-30 index (a more complex index derived by multiplying a weighted variation of the 30 constituent share prices together and taking the 30th root).

But to look at the 9p rise in Reuters to 878p, it would appear there are still benefits of FT-30 membership. The reason for both Reuters' and NFC's elevation to their respective indices was the same: the demise on Friday of Hawker Siddeley after falling to a bid from BTR, the engineering conglomerate.

Yesterday's change in the compilation of FT-SE was its 92nd, which on an index of 100 stocks begins to call into question its role as a historical measure of stockmarket performance. The index is changed when one of its members meets with a sudden demise, such as Hawker Siddeley, or when the indices committee at the London Stock Exchange decides at one of the quarterly review meetings that one of the constituents is no longer representative.

The main grounds for replacement in this fashion are normally a fall in the market value of the company, which is then replaced with the next highest stock of capitalisation.

Lurking on the reserve list in the event of sudden demise of an FT-SE 100 member are some stocks that have been in before — Burmah Castrol, Coats Viyella, Harrisons & Crosfield — and two that have not — W H Smith and Tomkins.

Deletions from the list read like an index of modern British corporate history: Eagle Star, Johnson Matthey, House of Fraser, Debenhams, Lonrho, Rothschild (J), Jaguar, Dixons, Amstrad, Standard Chartered Bank, Consolidated Gold Fields, Gateway and Storehouse. They have, however, been balanced by the entry of the enormous swathe of privatised stocks created in the past decade.

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Shortfall of 1m homes forecast in Nineties

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE deep recession in the construction industry will cause more destruction than the last economic downturn a decade ago, a building chief said yesterday.

Sir Clifford Chetwood, chairman of Wimpey, said there would be a shortfall of up to a million homes between the number required and the number built this decade. Plans being produced by local authorities would "dramatically undersupply the nation's housing needs". He added that that up to 250,000 jobs could be lost by next summer since the recession started two years ago, and the number of companies going bust could top 5,000 this year.

Addressing the Building Employers' Confederation in Birmingham, Sir Clifford, the confederation president, said the shortage of houses in the Eighties reached 1 million. This resulted in the "boom and bust" market which led to the current high levels of repossessions and problem of homelessness.

"Many counties are now cutting back on their intended rates of economic growth, simply as a means of putting a break on demand for housing," he added. "This spells serious trouble for the British economy in the 1990s and contains the seeds of another housing crisis."

Councils were also planning to build too few factories or out of town stores, he said.

The industry was "shockingly depressed" and significant recovery would not start until 1993, he said.

"I must emphasise we are by no means through the worst. In terms of our current workload and future order books things are still getting worse and there are some harsh times ahead."

Also during the conference, Sir George Young, the housing minister, was challenged to explain why the Treasury is withholding £100 million that would release matching funds from the EC to help clear up coal mining areas. Brussels offered the money on condition that the government also spends £100 million. John Owens, BEC director general, said the money could be of "considerable benefit" to the construction industry.

Sir George said the government and Brussels were holding talks to try to resolve the issue.



Ten years on: Sir Clifford warned builders that the slump is worse than 1981

Building decline slowing

BY ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INCREASES in public and private sector spending in infrastructure will slow the decline of the construction industry in Britain, according to the National Council of Building Material Producers.

In a revised forecast, the BMP says construction output will fall by 8.5 per cent this year, rather than the 11 per cent it predicted in July. The council predicts that rising private sector spending on the Channel tunnel, and in the water and power industries, will offset the decline in industrial construction.

At the same time, public spending on projects such as roads and rail will increase, rather than decline, as expected earlier. However, a steep decline in shop and office building, and the weakness of housebuilding, will continue the overall contraction.

The council said: "No recovery in building activity is envisaged until 1993 and the upturn, at 2 per cent, should be seen as only marginal against the earlier declines."

Bankers criticise ASB

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE British Bankers Association has accused the Accounting Standards Board of economic unreality and called for it to modify or abandon its proposals on off-balance sheet finance.

Paul Tillett, BBA's deputy secretary, has written to the board in response to its proposals to force banks to include securitised loans in their balance sheets.

The letter says in part that the proposals "do not reflect economic reality and will result in accounts which do not present a true and fair view".

The BBA is worried that the change in accounting standards will damage the growing securitisation market by making it appear that banks are at greater risk from their securitisation business than before. Several of the main high street banks have also written letters of complaint to the board.

Until now, banks have been able to take some of their mortgage lending off their balance sheets as bonds. Since they no longer own the debt, the banks do not have to record them in their annual reports.

Now, however, the board wants all securitised bonds to be listed as assets in banks' balance sheets.

The BBA said that the change would also make it difficult for a bank to convince bondholders that it offered no guarantee on the securitised issue if it defaulted. The letter added that the change would confuse banking analysts.

"It will be difficult to convince users of accounts that risk has been transferred. Securitisations which would have been economically efficient will be frustrated," claims the letter.

The board has finished taking comments on its proposals on off-balance sheet finance, and is expected to produce a revised draft shortly.

Rival generators to capture 20% share

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT power generators are on course to capture 20 per cent of the electricity market in England and Wales within seven years, according to figures released by the National Grid Company (Gridco) yesterday.

Terms have been agreed for connection of 11 new power stations to the national electricity transmission system during the past six months, Gridco said.

The agreements double the number of plants where developers have made a financial commitment to proceed. However, the surge in independent generation, at a time when demand growth is expected to be negligible, and large surplus capacity already exists, suggests the two privatised generators which dominate the market, National Power and PowerGen, may have to close many more plants.

Independent generators now have firm plans to construct more than 11,000 megawatts of new generating capacity, all fuelled by gas. These will combine with new plant programmes at the privatised generators, the completion of Sizewell B, and the upgrading of the power link between Scotland and England to add 16,300 megawatts to a power system with a peak demand last year of 50,000 megawatts.

The scale of expansion planned by independent generators in the wake of privatisation of the electricity industry was revealed alongside half-year profit figures for Gridco.

In the half to end-September National Grid, which is jointly owned by the 12 regional supply companies, increased pre-tax profits by 22.4 per cent to £243.7 million.

The figure was flattered by the late receipt of £18 million of income from system users, which should have been received last year. John Uttley, Gridco finance director, said the underlying improvement in earnings was 11 per cent.

The transmission company has increased the half-year dividend to its shareholder companies by 9.2 per cent, at a total cost of £38 million.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

New contracts aim to stabilise power prices

NUCLEAR Electric has moved to stabilise bulk electricity prices by offering six-year contracts in its annual tender round, which sets a benchmark price for the industry. The contracts, which will run from April next year until March 1998, will provide the first widespread opportunity for companies and regional power suppliers to protect themselves against price fluctuations.

Nuclear Electric's so-called contracts for differences, a financial hedging device, will be sold by a tender offer. One-year contracts will remain available, but the state-owned nuclear generating group, which supplies more than 17 per cent of UK power needs, said longer term contracts would assist its financial planning. They will also enable energy intensive manufacturers to protect themselves against unexpected increases in power prices.

Marrel bids for Edbro

MARREL, a French hydraulics company, has made a recommended takeover bid for Edbro, a British manufacturer of tipping hoists for trucks and trailers, based in Bolton, Lancashire.

The offer, 270p per share in cash, values Edbro at about £24.2 million, and represents a 92.9 per cent premium on Edbro's share price, which shot up from 140p to close at 268p on news of the bid. The premium on net asset value, as of March, is 10.7 per cent.

New chief for Ashley

LAURA Ashley Holdings, the clothing and furnishings retailer, is strengthening its British retail operations with the appointment of Stephen Cotter as managing director of Laura Ashley's UK retail operation.

Mr Cotter, aged 44, was formerly director in charge of retail operations, marketing and personnel of Burton Retail. He has worked in the retail sector for more than 20 years with BhS, Mothercare, Dorothy Perkins and Burton. Laura Ashley has more than 180 stores in the UK.

James Cropper down

PRE-TAX profits at James Cropper, the Cumbria-based specialist paper and board maker, fell to £621,000 in the six months to end-September, down from £971,000 last time. Turnover climbed to £20.1 million, from £19.6 million last time.

Earnings per share slide from 10.1p to 5.3p, but the interim dividend is maintained at 0.975p. The company blames the recession for the adverse effects on its order book and margins. Trading continues to be difficult.

Hewetson falls 27%

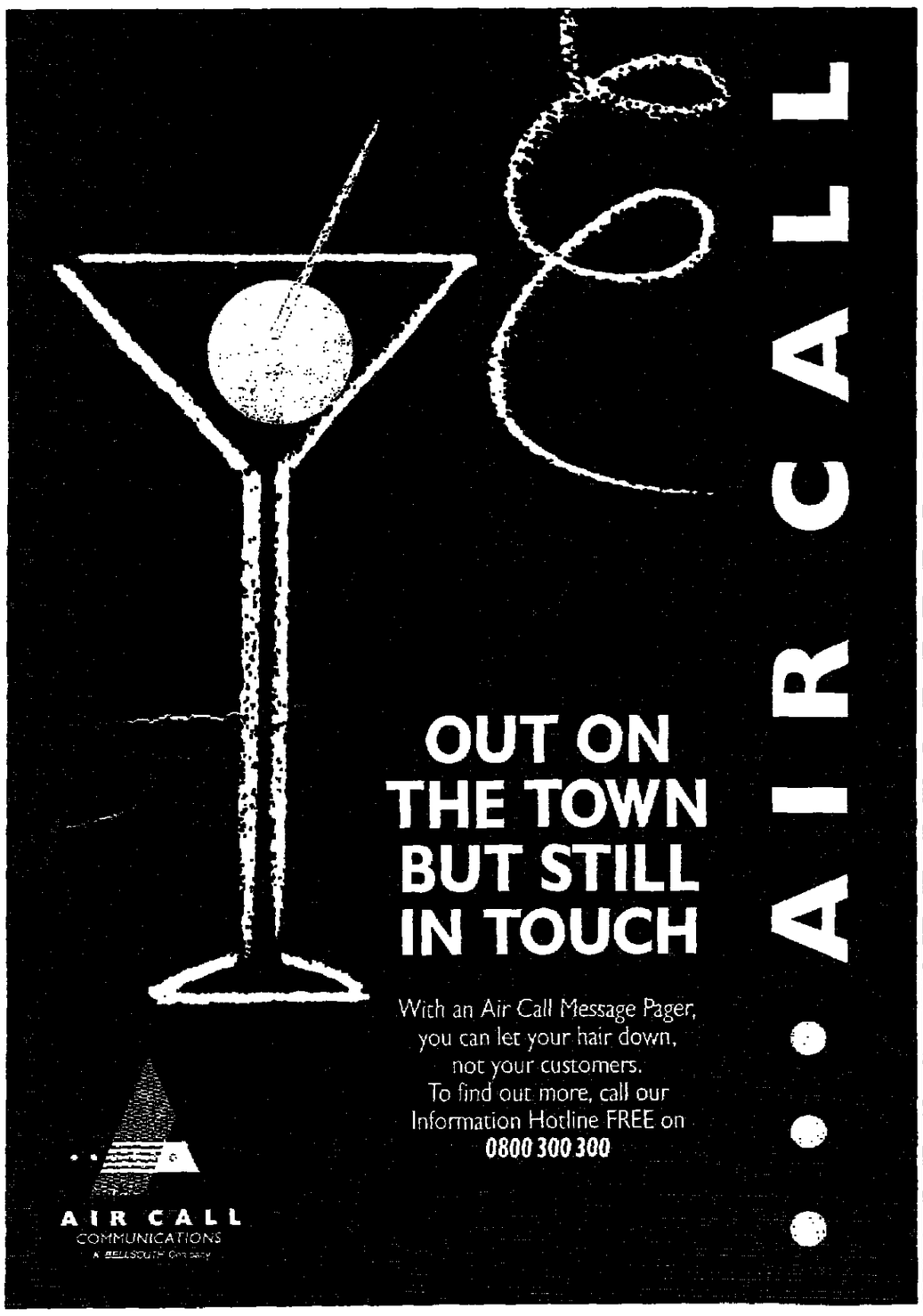
THE continued difficult trading conditions took their toll on Hewetson, the building materials group. The company suffered a 27 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £703,000 (£1.17 million) in the six months to end-September, on turnover down from £22 million to £19.2 million.

Fully diluted earnings slid to 4.48p (7.63p) per share, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.6p. Profits were hampered by reorganisation costs which resulted in an exceptional debit of £154,000.

Merrydown declines

MERRYDOWN Wine, the USM-quoted Sussex cider, wine and health foods group, reports a slight slip in pre-tax profits to £943,000 in the six months to end-September, down from £1.03 million last time.

Group turnover eased from £8.13 million to £8.1 million, with first half sales damaged by the recession, increases in excise duty and VAT, and poor weather. Earnings per share, adjusted for October's scrip issue, fell to 8.7p (9.25p). The interim dividend is raised by 12.5 per cent to 1p.



Ex-director of Scrimgeour 'lied to clinch share deal', court told

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A FORMER director of Scrimgeour Vickers, a City stockbroking company, lied to secure a £23 million share deal, it was alleged in the High Court yesterday.

Anthony Grabiner, QC, was opening an action in which Smith New Court, the stockbroking firm, is asking Mr Justice Chadwick to rescind its purchase in 1989 of 28 million shares in Ferranti International Signal from Scrimgeour.

If that claim fails, Smith New Court seeks damages for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation by former Scrimgeour executive director Christopher Roberts. It is claimed that Mr Roberts led Smith New Court into the deal by stating falsely that there were other bidders for the shares.

The action, which is expected to last two weeks, is being contested by Scrimgeour Vickers and Citibank, both subsidiaries of the Citicorp Group, and by Mr Roberts.

Mr Grabiner told the court that the Ferranti shares had belonged to James Guerin and had been charged against a £23 million loan to his company, Parent Industries.

Smith New Court's case was that on July 21 1989, Mr Roberts had telephoned to ask if the firm was interested in buying the shares, saying they would be in competition with two other would-be purchasers — Citicorp CSV, Citicorp's stockbroking and market-making arm, and another bidder not in the securities industry, Aeritalia. Just after 5 pm the same day, Smith New Court agreed to buy the shares for 82¼ pence each.

Mr Grabiner said Smith New Court could only speculate as to why Mr Roberts had lied to secure the share deal. Two days earlier he had been told he was going to be dismissed as head of Scrimgeour Vickers and Citibank's onshore unit.

But Citicorp's senior management had left him in charge of realising the security for the loan to Parent Industries until he left to go on holiday on July 21 — the day the deal was struck. "It may well be that a resentful Mr Roberts, determined to demonstrate that his employers had just sacked a man of great skill and talent, crossed the boundary of honesty in his desire to demonstrate his point to his employers," Mr Grabiner said.

It was common ground that Aeritalia had never bid 81p or any other price for the shares, but Smith New Court had not established that until December 1989.

Smith New Court had sold on the shares to limit its losses, but if the court ordered rescission, it would be "ready and able" to restore the same number of Ferranti shares to Scrimgeour in exchange for the purchase price. Alternatively, Smith New Court is asking the court to award up to £16 million in damages.

In criminal proceedings at Southwark Crown Court earlier this year, Mr Roberts was acquitted of charges of making false and misleading statements to induce Smith New Court to buy the Ferranti shares, but Mr Grabiner said he would submit that the judge should attach "little or no importance" to the outcome of those proceedings.

"The thrust of what was said at the criminal trial was that the Smith New Court witnesses were fabricating their evidence and that their evidence was a parody of the truth," he said. "We will demonstrate that that description is a nonsense."

The hearing continues today.



Company had £23 million loan: James Guerin

National Power buys into Seafield

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Power has acquired a 29.85 per cent stake in Seafield Resources, an oil and gas exploration and production company headed by John Raitt, former managing director of Tricentrol.

The generating group said it had acquired its £7.2 million stake as a hedge against rises in natural gas prices.

National Power, Britain's biggest generating company, has begun building the first of four new gas-fired power stations with a total capacity in excess of 3,000 megawatts.

National Power already has a 25 per cent stake in a consortium that was awarded a block in the southern North Sea in the UK twelfth round of offshore licensing.

The generating group is keen to expand in upstream energy production. Because it is already the dominant player in the electricity market in England and Wales, National Power would face severe regulatory constraints if it sought to expand within its core business area.

Colin Webster, National Power's commercial director, is to join the Seafield board. He spent 30 years with British Petroleum before joining National Power.

هكذا من الاصل

Lloyd's man was reinsuring reinsurances

Outhwaite 'was too far from risks', court told

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A LLOYD'S underwriter who lost his members £260 million took risks most insurers would have refused, the High Court heard yesterday.

Richard Outhwaite is at the centre of a key legal case brought by 987 of his names who accuse him of negligent underwriting.

The losses arose after Mr Outhwaite took on other syndicates' asbestos-related risks in the form of excess-of-loss reinsurance contracts. But Ulrich von Eicken, the names' expert witness, strongly criticised Mr Outhwaite for reinsuring accounts that were far removed from the potential source of claims.

In at least four cases, Mr Outhwaite was acting as a retrocessionaire, that is, reinsuring reinsurances.

In his expert report, Mr von Eicken said that by the Eighties reinsurers had ceased to accept retrocessionaire business precisely because they could not assess their liabilities. "As a retrocessionaire you were too far removed from the risks to make any kind of meaningful assessment of such questions as outstanding losses and loss reserves," the report stated.

Mr von Eicken said that the further away an underwriter was from a risk, the more difficult it was to assesss that risk. However, Kenneth Rokison, QC, for the defence, said that in that case, a reinsurer was less equipped to assess risks than the cedant.

He said this defeated the names' case that Mr Outhwaite should not have relied on the cedants' assessments of their risks but should have done his own research.

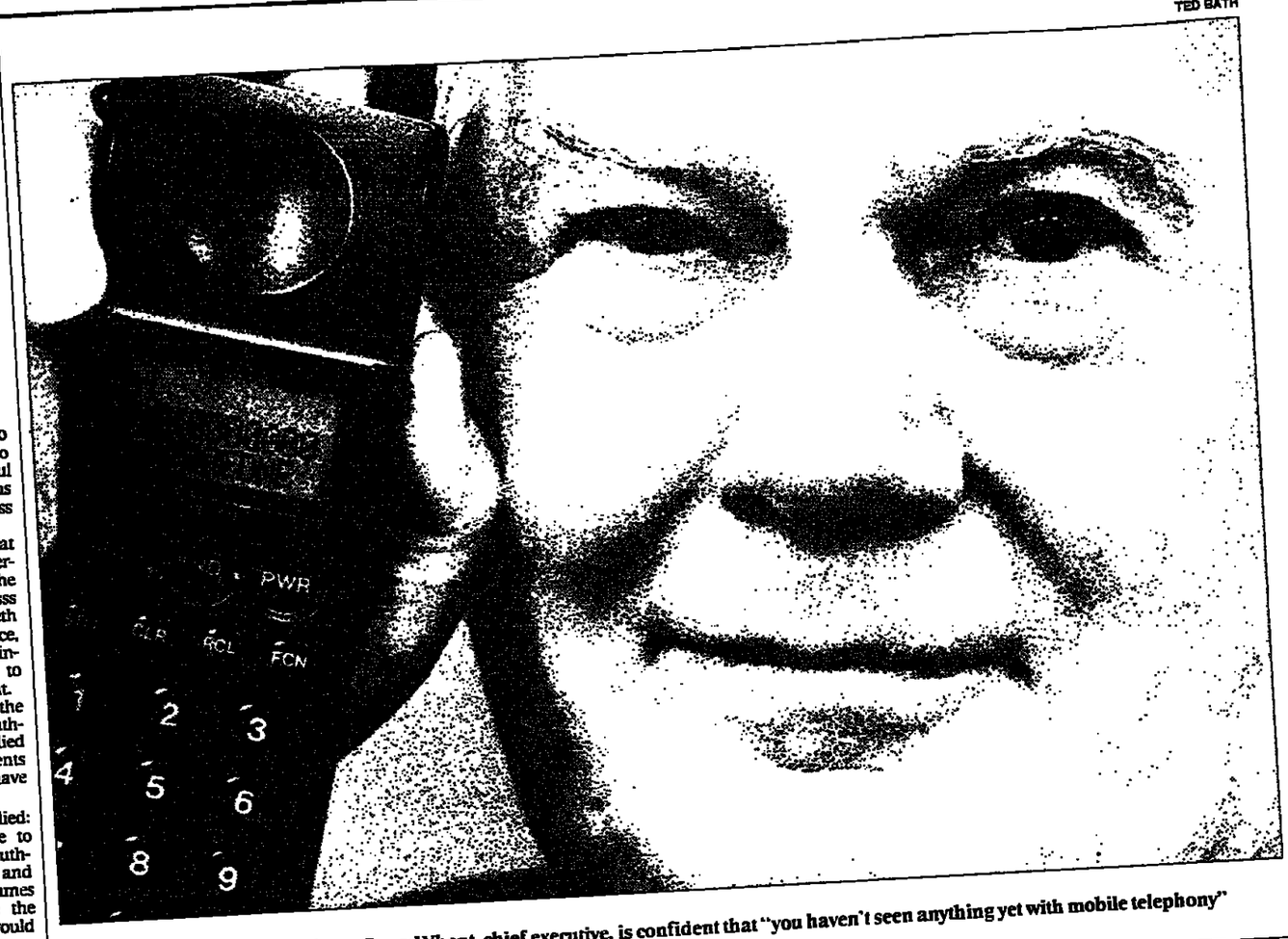
Mr von Eicken replied: "You will never get me to accept that he (Mr Outhwaite) could just sit there and put the money of his names on the line and hope the cedants and brokers would give him all he needed.

"He set himself in a peculiar kind of cocoon and did not know what was going on around him.

"What I am concerned about is what Mr Outhwaite knew when he did what he did, and it was very little. It's bad enough if you are on proportional reinsurance but if it's a chain of excess-of-loss covers you have no hope." The names, who include Edward Heath, Virginia Wade and Tony Jacklin, are suing the Outhwaite Agency and 81 members' agencies for £150 million on account of negligence and breach of contract.



"In a kind of cocoon": Richard Outhwaite



TED BATH

Talking telephone numbers: Gerry Whent, chief executive, is confident that "you haven't seen anything yet with mobile telephony"

Vodafone advances to £140m interim

BY OUR CITY STAFF

VODAFONE, Britain's biggest portable telephone company, says there are signs of an end to recession and a resumption of growth. "Providing the pessimists don't talk us into a second recession, we think everything will be fine," said Gerry Whent, chief executive.

Vodafone shares reacted strongly to first-half profits of £140 million and in late trading moved 10p higher to 354p.

Vodafone said network use during the recession fell to around £700 per subscriber a year against £725 earlier. The figure is now back up to around £710. Mr Whent pointed to Norway and Denmark as examples of how mobile telephone industries can bounce back from recession. "You haven't seen anything yet with mobile telephony," he said.

Vodafone says its balance sheet is in good shape, with no borrowings, and is well placed to expand where it sees opportunities. "We might end up with £30 million in the bank at the end of the year...but we might go out and buy something," Mr Whent said.

The company was reporting half-year results to October 11, its first since demerging from Racal Electronics, which formerly had 80 per cent. Pre-tax profit was up to £140 million from £122 million last time. The figure was at the top end of analysts' forecasts, which had ranged from £130 million to £140 million.

"We have nil gearing, we have no borrowings at all," said Mr Ken Hydon, finance director. "While it's not intended to be a forecast, we have no definite plans at the moment that would require us to borrow money. The balance sheet is looking healthy."

Mr Whent stressed that this position was achieved after heavy expenditure, including the acquisition for $75 million of a 30 per cent interest in Pacific Link, and payment of a £50 million extraordinary dividend related to the demerger.

Williams bid stays frozen

BY MATTHEW BOND

WILLIAMS Holdings has failed in its attempt to restart its £650 million bid for Racal Electronics.

A full meeting of the Takeover Panel yesterday ruled that the bid's timetable would remain frozen until Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, had ruled finally on whether or not the bid would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The timetable was halted by the Takeover Panel last month, with the bid frozen on day 37.

Once the bid timetable is restarted, Racal will have just two days to unveil it final financial information, the most anxiously awaited element of which is a profits forecast.

Racal's advisers had sought the original suspension because, they argued, Racal did not want to make a final profits forecast before it knew whether the bid was to be referred or not.

Williams had sought an immediate restart of the bid, because it said it was prepared to meet the undertakings required by Mr Lilley to ensure that the bid need not be referred to the MMC.

Although Mr Lilley indicated the undertakings he required last week, he initiated a ten day period of consultation that expires on Friday.

A statement from the panel yesterday pointed out that until the secretary of state has indicated that he is finally satisfied and that there will be no referral to the monopolies commission, that uncertainty would exist.

The panel concluded that it was unreasonable to expect Racal "to disclose information which might not otherwise be disclosed".

Although the bid timetable remains suspended, hostilities continue to be exchanged between the two companies.

Racal yesterday attacked Friday's statement from Williams alleging that, following the planned demerger of Racal Security, Racal's remaining businesses would have borrowings of £250 million.

Racal said that a circular to shareholders in July had indicated borrowings of £225 million and that current borrowings were "materially less".

Williams later responded by saying that it had based its figure of £250 million on figures supplied by Smith New Court, Racal's broker, in August.

Shen will challenge removal

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

MICHAEL Shen, former chief executive of French Connection, the retail chain, confirmed from a Hong Kong hotel room yesterday that he would be contesting his removal from the company's board last Friday through the courts.

Mr Shen, who was ousted as chief executive in September, and Stephen Malme, the group's finance director, were voted off the board at the stormy board meeting, called by majority shareholder Stephen Marks, who reinstated himself as chairman and chief executive.

"Our legal advice is that the board did not have the power to remove us," said Mr Shen.

Clowes denies any 'thieving'

PETER Clowes, the former head of Barlow Clowes, the investment empire, yesterday denied being head of a "team of thieves".

Replying to the accusation made by Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, Mr Clowes retorted: "I find that objectionable. There was no thieving whatsoever. I have never stolen one penny of anyone's money and I think you should take that comment back. It was a professional team, it was very successful. It was part of an investment strategy."

Questioned about the purchase of property and companies and their registered control, Mr Clowes told the Old Bailey jury that investors in Barlow Clowes were not entitled to known how their cash was spent — given Barlow Clowes' guarantees.

Instead he said that investors were guaranteed both a yield on their money and their cash back at any time. He said they were not the beneficial owners of group's schemes but had an interest in the profit generated.

Mr Suckling said that while Clowes or colleagues owned the shares of projects undertaken by Barlow Clowes with investors' cash, it had never been acknowledged in accounts.

Clowes maintained investors were never the beneficial owners but that profits were steered through "conduit" companies back to the Jersey based partnership responsible for paying clients.

Mr Suckling alleged that new investors' money had been used to fund returns to earlier clients. Counsel asked if this was "robbing Peter to pay Paul"?

Mr Clowes claimed the turn-around of cash was in line with any bank, adding that if he had invested a sum with a High Street bank and was demanding the return of his capital, that the bank would use a new client's money rather than upset financial strategy.

Mr Suckling asked Clowes about the purchase of a Surrey farm, a Hatton Garden jewellers, and a French chateau and vineyard.

Clowes said that despite the ownership of shares in the nominee companies being with him or other directors, he believed that returns would be paid back to Jersey and to his clients.

Mr Clowes, 48; Peter Naylor, 35, of Send, Surrey; Guy Cramer, 29, of Micklethwaite, Yorks; and Christopher Newman, 37, of Polstead, Surrey, variously deny charges of fraud and theft. The trial continues today.



Bioplan takes over HCI

ALISTAIR GRANT

BIOPLAN, the healthcare group that asked shareholders for £22 million in May, yesterday declared a £5.5 million half-year loss and the take over of HCI in a share deal worth £15.8 million.

HCI is a hospital group that owns the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh as well as having interests in the development projects in the Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

The deal was agreed by Bob Nellist, chairman of Bioplan, and Dennis Sokol, of HCI.

HCI took over the international operations of HCA, the Hospital Corporation of America in November 1989.

Bioplan also revealed that £3.7 million of rights cash was used to fund losses in the half year to end September. Behind the losses lay £4.3 million of exceptional costs of which £2.8 million covered balance sheet write offs.



Joining forces: Nellist of Bioplan, Sokol of HCI

Tempus, page 24

Chemicals giant plans to reduce its costs and raise prices

BASF profit gloom continues

BY WOLFGANG MÖNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

BASF, the world's largest chemical company, has announced that it is embarking on a cost-cutting programme and raising the prices of its products after yet another disappointing three-month performance. During the first three quarters of the year, pre-tax profits fell from DM2.34 billion to DM1.96 billion, although sales rose marginally, to DM35.1 billion.

Most of BASF's troubles are shared by the rest of the chemical industry, which is suffering from worldwide overcapacity because of falling prices. To overcome these difficulties, the company indicated that "major price increases will be unavoidable". Furthermore, BASF pledged to cut its cost base. In a statement, the company made a very gloomy assessment of Germany as a manufacturing base.

It has repeatedly voiced its unease about German manufacturing costs, and this might indicate that it is thinking of shifting production gradually away from its headquarters in Ludwigshafen.

The company said yesterday: "The disadvantages of Germany as a location for the chemical industry are increasing on account of rising costs in the environmental field."

This reflects the view, frequently expressed by German industry, that stringent environmental standards put domestic producers at a competitive disadvantage. Such sentiments have increased the pressure for Europe-wide environmental legislation. The German and European markets improved after the summer, while eastern Europe suffered from the political upheavals.

The most significant improvement in the business came from Southeast Asia.

The oil and gas operations performed relatively well, while agricultural chemicals produced results that were still unsatisfactory, though better. Plastics and fibres were particularly badly hit by price falls.

BASF said it did not expect an improvement in earnings in the next few months. This gave rise to speculation that the company might be considering a cut in its dividend from last year's DM13 a share.

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merce International. In the redundant. The unhappy

JON ASHWORTH | Cambridge.

Vibroplant tumbles to £2.6m

A 16 per cent increase in American sales was not enough to maintain profits at Vibroplant, the specialist plant hire group.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-September were £2.68 million, almost 43 per cent below the level of a year ago. Pre-tax profits in America fell by 29 per cent to £821,000. In the domestic market, pre-tax profits tumbled 47.5 per cent to £1.86 million. The dividend is unchanged at 1.22p.

GPT wins deal

GPT, the telephone equipment company jointly controlled by General Electric Company and Siemens of Germany, has won a £4 million contract to install its System X telephone equipment in Kuwait.

Greenacre plan

Greenacre Group, the nursing home operator, is to develop a new 60-bed nursing home in Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

PR group slips

City of London PR Group, the financial public relations company, suffered an 18.3 per cent decline in taxable profits to £281,000 (£344,000) in the six months to end-September. Turnover was £929,000 (£380,000). Earnings per share are 2.48p (2.91p). The interim dividend is held at 1.04p.

Esselte in the red

Esselte, the Swedish office equipment maker, made a loss of SK753 million (£72 million) in the nine-month period to end-September, compared with a previous pre-tax profit of SK2,808 million.

GPG makes offer

GPG, the financial services group, has offered around £6.2 million cash for the Australian investment company ASC Ltd.

Allen lifts payout

Allen, the Wigan house-building-to-plant hire group, is raising its interim dividend from 1.6p to 1.65p. Pre-tax profits fell from £2.56 million to £2.01 million in the six months to end-September.

STOCK MARKET

Steady performance by pound lifts share prices

A STEADIER performance by the pound on the foreign exchange markets enabled share prices to recover an early markdown to close with small gains on the session.

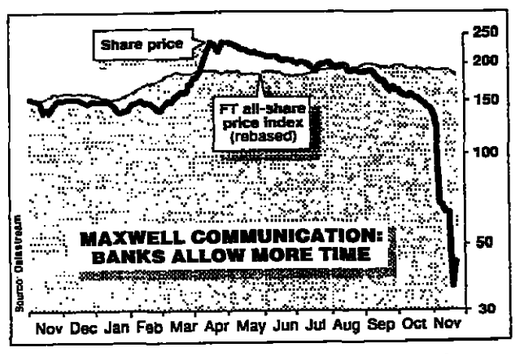
The FT-SE 100 index began the two-week trading account 15 points down, reflecting another setback on Wall Street and Tokyo over the weekend and the poor outlook for interest rates and the economy generally. The latest CBI industrial trends survey gave warning that the *economic recovery will be a* slow one. The index closed 9.9 higher at 2,456.2, helped by a steadier start to resumed trading in New York after the weekend break.

But turnover remained thin and dealers complained it was the apathy of investors overall, rather than the absence of sellers that had enabled prices to recover. By the close, only 416 million shares had changed hands. But the robust performance of the market puzzled many dealers, especially after last week's hefty falls.

Government securities lost ground before this week's £1.5 billion auction of new tap stock. *Denials* by the Bundesbank that it had been supporting the pound saw prices close at the bottom with losses of £⅛ at the longer end.

The market's resilient performance was made all the more remarkable by the heavy list of companies going ex-dividend. These included **Wellcome**, down 4p at 855p, **Anglian Water**, 8p to 340p, **BAA**, 5p to 480p, and **British Steel**, 2p to a low of 73½p, and would have been comparable to a further 3 point deficit in the index.

Hawker Siddeley rose 46p to 721p, as the board finally threw in the towel and urged shareholders to accept the terms of the £1.5 billion bid from **BTR**, 3p better at 372p. On Friday, BTR announced it spoke for 70 per cent of the shares. Hawker Siddeley is being replaced by **NFC**, the freight transport group, as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index. NFC ended 10p better, at 232p, hoping to benefit from the support of the tracking funds which almost exclusively follow the fortunes of the index stocks.



There may have been little cheer for the building sector, but Tay Homes, the housebuilder, managed a rise of 1p to 167p. Nomura, the Japanese securities house, includes Tay among its "six of the best" in its latest 100-page review of the industry. Despite the recession, pre-tax profits are expected to grow in the current year by £200,000 to £8.5 million.

Davies & Newman, the revamped Dan Air tour flight operator, rose 8p to 88p, after becoming a member of the FT-All share index.

Shares of **Edbro**, the Bolton hydraulics group, surged 128p to 268p, following an agreed £24.2 million bid from Marrel, a privately owned French company, which makes parts for trucks.

Sir Ernest Harrison, the Racal chairman, has never been a man to let the grass grow under his feet. Within a short-while of the Takeover Panel clearing **Williams Holdings**' £657 million bid for his company, he was pounding the City pavements in an attempt to drum-up support for his defence. He first visited Smith New Court, the broker, and he was later seen at Kleinwort Benson.

The Takeover Panel has given Williams, unchanged at 314p, the go-ahead to proceed once again with the bid providing it disposes of the Chubb security side. Williams last week described plans by Racal to float off its security division as "misplaced".

Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator floated off separately by Racal this year, rose 12p to 356p, after unveiling interim figures showing pre-tax profits £38 million ahead at £140.2 million.

Debt-laden **Maxwell Communication Corporation** rallied 9p to 45p as the company's bankers gave the company more time to sort out its problems in the wake of the death of publisher Robert Maxwell. Kevin Maxwell, his son, the newly appointed chairman of MMC, has been having talks with the banks about the credit-worthiness of his father's private companies. However, there was a spread of 5p between the bid and offer price indicating that marketmakers were in no rush to deal.

Mirror Group Newspapers, still 51 per cent-owned by MMC, held steady at 125p. The market is taking the view that MMC may be forced to sell its stake in MGN to help reduce debts.

The high street food retailers attracted much needed support. The sector has been under a cloud lately, worried by the effect of increased competition on margins. But some dealers are now taking the view that the selling has been overdone. There were gains for **Asda**, 2p to 39p, **J Sainsbury**, 4p to 325p, and **Tesco**, 7p to 221p.

Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, reporting interim figures today, rose 11p to 270p. Analysts are looking for an increase in pre-tax profits from £143 million to £175 million. **Kwik Save Discount** also firmed 4p to 540p, before half-year figures tomorrow, which are expected to show profits up from £85 million to £101 million.

The gloomy prospects for *the building industry* gave market bears another chance to hit the shares. The Building Employers' Confederation gave warning at its annual meeting in Birmingham, that job losses were continuing and were expected to reach 250,000 by the summer. Forward order books were still in decline. The National Council of Building Material Producers said it does not expect a pick-up until 1993. There were losses for **Baggeridge Brick**, 7p to 77p, **BPB Industries**, 5p to 152p, **Ibstock Johnsen**, 3p to 78p, **RMC Group**, 12p to 501p, **John Mowlem**, 5p to 221p, and **Taylor Woodrow**, 3p to 150p.

But there were signs of a revival for the big electrical retailers hit last week by news of an across the board 10 per cent reduction in the price of its electrical goods by Argos. **Dixons** rose 6p to 218p, **Kingfisher** 6p to 511p while **Boots** slipped 1p to 418p in ex-dividend form. **Argos** recovered an early fall to close all-square at 280p despite a brokers' profits downgrading.

MICHAEL CLARK

TEMPUS

Vodafone rings bells against the recession

MICHAEL POWELL



Cashmere concern: Dawson's Ronald Miller

A COMPANY that can generate earnings growth of 13 per cent in the depths of a recession in its major market is worth watching. That alone would have justified the 10p rise in Vodafone shares to 354p yesterday. But there was more good news. *While there* is as yet no sign of a change in the so-called "churn rate" which measures customer drop-outs, the group is seeing a slight improvement in the rate of its new customer growth. Better still, their overall spend has stopped shrinking and is showing signs of picking up. This amounts to nothing less than the first flickerings of post-recession growth and will put some life into Vodafone shares if monthly net subscriber growth continues.

At £140 million, profits for the half year to October 11 were perhaps £10 million *better than* mainstream market expectations and at the top end of the range. The half time dividend rose 10 per cent to 2.86p per share compared with the 2.6p paid last time. Earnings per share were 9.45p against 8.35p in 1990.

For the full year, analysts believe that Vodafone can make profits before tax of around £270 million, giving earnings per share in the region of 18½p. That gives a forward looking price/earnings ratio of 19 or so. But Vodafone shares should continue to reward purchasers. Cellular telephony has shown itself to be more *sensitive to recession than* its most bullish fans believed would be the case. But growth has been strongly positive nevertheless, and is likely to accelerate once recession becomes a thing of the past.

Vodafone is still a bid target. Since the demerger from Racal Electronics was finalised, the company has become attractive to predators as the world's most profitable cellular operator.

Dawson

EVEN accepting the argument that the economy will one day pull itself out of the slump, a cashmere jumper is *unlikely to be near the top of* many post-recession shopping lists.

Set against cashmere's status as a luxury item, it is a miracle that Dawson International — the group behind brands such as Ballantyne, Pringle and McGeorge — has done as well as it has. Indeed, Ronald Miller and his board can take pride in a first-half performance that has seen pre-tax profits in the six months to end-September fall just 6.4 per cent to £16.2 million, a period when effective cash management has almost made up for flat sales and tightening margins.

Whether they will be able to take the same pride in the second half looks more doubtful, for Dawson looks set to be squeezed. While it must be encouraging that orders for cashmere fibre are picking up, there looks to be no such relief in store for the finished product. Even with Dawson's investment in reduced delivery times, retailers look certain to cut back on orders, not just for cashmere but also for Dawson's upmarket British brands. In addition, the stores may want the company to pass "on the recent falls in the raw cashmere price sooner rather than later, putting further pressure on margins.

The American retail market is in an even worse state than our own, so it seems a remote prospect that Dawson's lower ticket brands, such as Bukold and Morgan thermal underwear, will make up Britain's shortfall.

The company will do well to make profits of £27 million. At 171p, the shares are on a multiple of over 16 and should not be chased higher.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

RETAIL

PORTSMOUTH SHOP FREEHOLD £169K!
(LEASE BACK PREFERRED)
Main road. Very central. Outstanding corner. 160ft+ of window. Ex. multiple. PR/Perm for extensions. Heavy girder frame. At present Audio/Video retail.
Stock could be sold separately. Price greatly reduced for early sale. Super building.
Details Telephone: 0705-295222 (anytime)

ESTABLISHED SHOP AND WORK SHOP
Fully equipped for picture and mirror framing; retail sales of posters, prints,cards e.t.c.
Turnover £150K PA
Situated South East London, main road position.
Rent £15K PA excl. Goodwill £50K.
Please write to; MR G PENNEY
48 RUSSELL CLOSE, KENSWORTH NR DUNSTABLE, BEDS. LU6 3RW.

Prestige Long Established CAR SHOWROOMS.
Main Road A217, Tooting SW19.
Holds 19+ Cars.
New Lease, £30K pa Rent.
£60,000 PREMIUM.
081 767 6307.

PINE & GIFTS. Outstanding business 2 shops. Suffolk T/O £240K Net profit £50K+ to couple Real potential to build further. Price £65,000. Lakev & Co (0394) 273371

RETAIL INVESTMENTS FOR SALE
Five shops in good regional towns Prime Town Centre locations.
Available individually or as a portfolio. Yields up to 14%. Prices from £190,750-270,000 Good leases
For particulars telephone
Wilkie & Dundas, WS
Kirriemuir (0575) 72608

ESTABLISHED up market retail furnishing business T/O £300K increasing GP 38%+. new lease for sale as a going concern. Please Reply to Box No 6410

HOTELS & CATERING

ISLE OF MAN RAVENSDALE
Conference Centre-Country House Hotel
The principal residence has undergone a complete renovation program over the last 18 months including the replacement to a high specification, of all services.
Property stands in 7 acre grounds within this area with Planning Consent Coachhouse to convert to Conference suite. Cottages to convert to additional leisure or bedroom facilities Management Bungalow of high standard
£1.5m sterling for freehold
Full details Tel or Fax 0624 822132 Lewis Wicke Associates, Ballaribbin Farm, Greenaby, Ballasalla, Isle of Man.

NORTH NORFOLK COAST
Caley Hall, Motel & Restaurant
Old Hunstanton
RETAIL suite chalets, 80 cover restaurant with bar/lounge, private car parking. 17th century manor house with private gdn
Last six onths T/O £210.000. F/Hold £850.000.
Ph: (0485) 533486

COTSWOLDS RESTAURANT
WITH 2/3 BED APARTMENT
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
Planning permission for (36 cover) restaurant with bar. Also other poss. retail uses.
OFFERS FOR FREEHOLD IN REGION OF £235,000
Corner position Grade 2 listed.
Minimal development required.
Details (0453) 872778
Cutsdean Leisure

LEISURE/RETAIL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
6.5 acre site, 35 miles south of Reading, company established on site for 30 years present turnover 1 million with potential increase
Existing businesses on site include machinery sales and repairs, buildings and conservatories, camping and caravan sales, planning permission for garden centre with considerable potential for other leisure concessions.
Riley Quinton Edwards 0256 881111 Ref AWE

LOCK UP Sandwich Bar/Cafe 11 year lease £40,000. Tel:081 869 6428 whitby 6am-3.30pm or home-081 850 9361.

HOTEL on the banks of the River Avon near Pershore, Worcestershire Large swimmingpool, 7 ensuite letting rooms, 2 bed owners flat Excellent condition. Reduced to £295,000. Details from Bailey & Bailey, Malvern (06845) 573036.

LEISURE

SOUTH WEST France, profitable & proven leisure business. 4 luxury farmhouse cottages. Inc swimming pool, 2 acres. constructed to British Tour Operators Potential income £30,000 + season lettings only. Secure & easy to run £245,000 Reply Box No 6322

MISCELLANEOUS

VERY BUSY
large car dismantellars yard & parts shop Central Birmingham
Enquiries in writing to PO Box 2506, Birmingham B6 7SZ, England

USED CARPARTS BUSINESS
Established ten years, specialising in prestige German Marque Turnover circa £300K. Scope for improvement. Based in South, £225K to include stock/good will and lease. Genuine reason for sale
0444 870152 or 0860 373171.

ESTABLISHED West Midlands Wholesale Supplier of Trimming to the furniture Trade, easily operated by two persons *(one on a part-time basis)*. T/O £238,000 with good profits and capable of considerable expansion if required. Most customers within 3/4 miles radius. All within 10 miles. £40,000 plus S.A. £111,000. Box No 6171

SPECIALIST FOOD PROCESSING COMPANY ASSETS FOR SALE BY INFORMAL TENDER (CLOSING DATE 29TH NOV 1991)
OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE ASSETS (INCLUDING LEASE AND CUSTOMER BASE) OF A WELL EQUIPPED FACTORY SPECIALISING IN FROZEN PRODUCTS. BRIGHTON AREA. PRICE GUIDE £35,000.
TEL (DURING OFFICE HOURS)/FAX 0423-869131 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Patent Rights/Blueprints/Production Model
For sale - For Innovative
STONE PROFILING/TURNING MACHINE
HUGE POTENTIAL, WORLDWIDE SALES
Suit ambitious Hydraulic/Engineering company with necessary Marketing expertise
TOO BIG FOR OUR BOOTS!
Tel Auto-Mason, 0706 212048 anytime

ESTABLISHED trophy and engraving business South coast T/o £100K+ & rising. GNP 50%. Enormous growth potential. 2000 sq ft leasehold unit Own car park Prime site O.I.R.O. £110K Tel. 0903 717766 Fax 0903 731377

ASTA / IATA Travel agency for sale. 3 Offices. Good locations. South Hampshire. For details apply to Box No 6092.

OVERSEAS

MOVE TO FLORIDA
Buy an easy to run, profitable business which may qualify you & your family for an U.S. working visa, such as gift stores, convenience stores, apartment complexes, jewellery stores, mini warehouses. Legal & financial advice available thru specialised immigration lawyer & accredited tax advisor.
Liberty 1, Llc. R.E. & Business Brokers
409 Courthouse Sq, Inverness F. 32650
TEL: (904) 726 4717
FAX (904) 726 3584

MALLORCA FISH AND CHIPS.
No recession worries here, an opportunity to work in the sun. Due to retirement an exreemly successful Fish and Chip business is for sale. Situated in the north of Mallorca, Alcudia is a popular family resort. The lock up freehold premises sits in the very heart of numerous self catering appartment blocks.
Established 1988 fitted with super professional equipment trading April - October, the 32 seater covered terrace is a prime attraction.
Freehold £230,000 Private loan available.
TELEPHONE 0705 321132.

SCUBA DIVING BUSINESS WEST COAST BARBADOS
A well established business situated on the sea front which is also a prime location for all surrounding Hotels.
All equipment renewed over the last 12 months.
Also included is a shop, dive boat and filling station (air).
EXCELLENT TURNOVER. £50,000 (Negotiable).
For all enquiries please call
010 1 809 432 1170. (DOREEN or RON)

SPAIN, COSTA DEL SOL
Small block of 18 studio apartments, internal bar and large terrace bar Not trading at present hence available at only £187,000 Great potential for a forward looking couple, prepared to work at rebuilding the business May consider exchange for UK property depending on location.
For further details phone 081-660 9562 or 0883 62.845.

NICE - Cote d'Azur.
65 seat Mexican restaurant. Popular all year 2 minutes from beach. Priced for quick sale. Experienced multi-lingual Chef & staff willing to stay, International clientele & loyal locals. For details call (33) 93 80 36 72 (after 7pm except Mondays) or write to: Caledoc, 16 rue Benoit Bunico, 06300 Nice, France.

RESORT For sale Central Brittany: Luxury Hotel and Convention Centre set in 9 acres of woodland. Restaurant with panoramic views, 18 holliday cottages, 27 acre lake with rental boats & waterfall International clientele Owner must sell due to poor health £375,000 o.n.o No Agents Lease adress at 010 33 97? 46 482 or fax 010 33 990 69 164 for brochure

PROPERTY

SURREY Superior detached Victorian house providing attractive home & substantial income Owners 4 bedroom 2 bathroom, ground floor flat and 9 serviced flatlets Freehold £350 000 Tel Godalming (0483) 415848

TRANSPORT

PURPOSE BUILT Car Showroom 6/7 cars forecourt 60 cars. N Cheshire main rd location Modern workshop fully equipped £20 000 pa rent secure lease £150,000 premium Reply Box No 6297

THE TIMES
BUSINESSES FOR SALE
APPEAR EVERY TUESDAY
FOR MORE INFORMATION
TEL: J HENDERSON
071-481 1982

WALL STREET

	Nov 25 midday	Nov 22 close
AMP Inc	50⅝	51¼
AMR Corp	59⅜	59⅝
Abbott Labs	58½	58⅝
Aetna Life	36⅝	37
Ahmanson (H F)	13¼	13¾
Air Prod & Chem	65½	66⅜
Albertson's	35	35⅛
Alcan Aluminm	19¼	19⅝
Allo Standard	32⅞	32⅝
Allied Signal	38⅜	38½
Alum Co of Am	57⅛	58¼
Amax	19⅜	19⅛
Amerada Hess	48	48
Amer Brands	38¾	38⅝
Amer Cyanamid	55	55⅞
Amer El Power	30¼	30¼
Amer Express	18¼	18⅜
Amer Gen Corp	41⅛	40⅞
Amer Home Pr	74⅜	74½
Amer Intl	84⅛	83⅞
Amer Stores	28⅛	28⅜
Amer T & T	36¼	36½
Ameritech	59⅞	58⅝
Amoco	47⅝	48¼
Anheuser-Busch	52¼	52⅛
Apple Computer	51¼	51¼
Archer Daniels	27⅛	26⅞
Arkla	14½	14¼
Armco	3¾	3⅞
Armstrng Wrld	28	28⅛
Asarco	22½	22¼
Ashland Oil	28⅛	29
Atl Richfield	104⅜	106½
Auto Data Pro	57⅝	58½
Avery Dennison	21	21¼
Avon Products	38¼	38⅛
Baker Hughes	19⅞	20⅜
Baltmo Gas & El	32⅜	32⅞
Banc One	43	43
BankAmerica	33½	34⅛
Bank of NY	29¼	29⅝
Bankers Tr NY	60¾	61
Barnett Bks Fl	29½	29⅝
Bausch & Lomb	49½	50¼
Baxter Intl	36¼	36½
Bectn Dickinsn	59¼	60⅜
Bell Atlantic	44¼	45½
BellSouth	46¼	46¼
Black & Decker	15⅞	15⅝
Block (H&R)	33	34¼
Boeing	43¾	43⅝
Boise Cascade	32⅜	32⅝
Borden Inc	30⅛	30½
Bristol Myrs Sq	79¾	80¼
Browning Ferris	17⅜	16⅝
Burlington Ntbn	36	36
CBS	135½	136
CNA Financial	87	88
CPC Intl	81	80
CSX	49⅝	51
Campbell Soup	76¼	76⅜
Can Pacific	15⅛	15⅛
Cpl Cities ABC	383	387
Cpl Holdings	49½	49¾
Carolina Pwr	48⅝	48¾
Caterpillar	40¼	40¾
Central & SW	51½	51½
Champion Intl	23½	23½
Chase Manhat	16¼	16¼
Chemical Bk	22⅛	22⅜
Chevron Corp	67⅞	67⅞
Chrysler	11⅛	11⅜
Chubb Corp	35½	35¼
Cigna Corp	51⅜	51¾
Cincorp	10⅞	10¾
Clorox	37⅛	37⅛
Coastal Corp	26⅝	27⅛
Coca Cola	68⅝	69⅛
Colgate Palm	41	41⅛
Columbia Gas	18⅛	18½
Commonw Ed	40⅞	40⅝
Compaq Comp	24½	25
Comp Ass Int	9⅛	9⅛
Conagra	43½	43½
Cons Edison	25½	25½
Cons Nat Gas	41	41¼
Cons Rail	72¾	73
Cooper Inds	40¼	40⅞
Corning Inc	74½	75
Crown Cork	84½	85
Dana Corp	25½	26¼
Dayton Hudson	59½	58⅞
Deere	49½	48¾
Delta Air Lines	57½	57¼
Deluxe Corp	37	36⅜
Detroit Edison	33	33⅛
Digital Equip	61⅞	60⅝
Dillard Dept St	124¾	124½
Disney (Walt)	106	105¾
Dominion Res	54⅞	56½
Donelley (R R)	47½	47½
Dover Corp	35⅝	36¼
Dow Chemicals	49¼	49⅝
Dow Jones	22¼	22⅜
Dresser	18⅞	19⅛
Duke Power	30¾	31⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	47¼	47⅜
Du Pont	44⅝	44⅞
Eastman Kodak	45⅛	46⅜
Eaton Corp	56⅛	56¼
Emerson Elec	47¾	48
Enron Corp	71⅝	72
Entergy Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Ethyl Corp	23⅞	24⅛
Exxon	57¾	57⅝
FMC Corp	46¾	46¾
FPL Group	34⅞	34⅞
Federal Express	38⅝	38¾
Fed Nat Mtge	56⅜	57
First Chicago	23¾	24⅛
First Interstate	28⅝	29¼
First Union Rlty	8½	8¾
FleetNorstar	21⅝	21¾
Fluor Corp	36	36⅜
Ford Motor	24⅜	24⅝
GTE Corp	37½	37½
Gannett	36¾	36⅝
Gap Inc Del	49⅜	50⅛
Gen Cinema	17⅜	17⅝
Gen Dynamics	48¾	47½
Gen Electric	67	66⅝
Gen Mills	64¼	66
Gen Motors	30½	30⅝
Gen Reinsurance	89	89¼
Gen Signal	49⅝	49⅞
Genuine Parts	43½	42⅞
Georgia Pac	46½	47⅛
Gillette	42⅝	42⅝
Goodrich (B F)	37¾	37⅞
Goodyear Tire	49⅛	49⅝
Grace (W R)	38¼	38⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26¼	26½
Great Wstn Fin	14	14
Halliburton	51	51⅛
Heinz (H J)	37⅞	37⅞
Hercules	43⅜	43½
Hershey Foods	37⅞	36⅝
Hewlett Packard	48¼	47⅞
Hilton Hotels	39⅝	39½
Home Depot	58⅝	59⅛
Homestake	16⅝	16⅝
Honeywell	57¼	57½
Household Intl	43¾	44⅛
Houston Inds	39¼	39¼
Humana	24	24
ITT Corp	53⅛	52½
Illinois Tool	60¾	60⅝
INCO	31	30⅞
Ingersoll Rand	47	48
Inland Steel	20	19⅝
Intel Corp	40½	41
IBM	95¾	94½
Intl Flav & Fr	91⅞	88⅝
Intl Paper	68⅜	68⅝
James River Va	18⅛	18⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94¼	94⅜
K Mart	40	39⅞
Kellogg	103½	102½
Kerr-McGee	37⅞	38¼
Kimberly-Clark	92⅝	92⅝
Knight-Ridder	44¾	45
Lilly (Eli)	74⅜	73¼
Limited Inc	26¼	27¼
LIN Broadcstg	63⅝	64
Lincoln Nat	52½	51⅞
Litton	87⅛	86¾
Lk Claiborne	35½	35¼
Lockheed Corp	42⅞	42½
Louisiana Pac	37⅝	37½
MCI Commun	27¾	27½
Manuf Hanover	25¼	25⅝
Marion	16⅛	16¼
Marsh & McLnn	71	71
Martin Marietta	53½	53¾
Masco Corp	20⅝	21
May Dept St	52¼	53
Maytag Corp	13¾	13⅝
McDermott	33½	34
McDonnell D	73	72¾
McGraw Hill	52	52½
Mead Corp	30⅜	29½
Medtronic	72¼	73½
Mellon Bk	33	33
Melville Corp	40½	40¾
Merck Inc	143¾	144¼
Merrill Lynch	49⅝	51
Minnesota Mine	85¾	85⅞
Mobil Corp	65¾	65
Monsanto	59⅜	61¼
Morgan (J P)	59½	60¼
Motorola Inc	60½	60¾
Nat Medical	12⅛	12⅞
Nat Semi	5¼	5⅜
Nat Service Ind	21¼	21
Navistar Int	2¼	2¼
NBD Bancorp	40¾	40½
NCNB Corp	34¼	34⅛
NY Times A	18⅞	18¾
Newmont Mng	40½	39¾
Nlsg Mohawk	17⅛	17¼
Nthn B	58¾	59¼
Nthn Indiana	9¾	9⅞
Northrop	35¼	35¼
Norfolk Sthrn	57½	57½
Nthn State Pwr	40⅜	40½
Norwest Corp	30¾	31
Nynex Corp	75⅝	75⅜
Occidental Pet	19¼	19¼
Ohio Edison	19¾	19⅝
Oracle Systems	14	14¼
Oryx Energy Co	26	26½
PNC Financial	40¾	41⅛
PPG Industries	46⅝	46⅜
Pacific Inc	46¾	47¼
Pacificorp	22¾	22¾
Pac Enterprises	24⅜	24½
Pac Gas & Elec	29⅜	29⅞
Pac Telesis	40¾	40¾
Pall Corp	36¾	36¾
Panhandle East	14¾	14½
Paramnt Comm	38⅝	38⅞
Parker Hannifin	29¾	29⅝
Penney (JC)	50¼	49⅝
Pennzoil	57¾	57⅝
Pepsico	28⅝	28⅞
Pfizer	67⅞	68
Phelps Dodge	68¼	68⅝
Philadel Elec	23⅝	23⅝
Philip Morris	68⅝	68⅝
Phillips Pet	23	23¼
Pitney Bowes	58	57¾
Polaroid	25½	25⅝
Pplsn Co	56¼	56¼
Primerica	34¾	34¾
Procter & Gmbl	79¾	79¾
Pub Serv E & G	27¼	27¼
Quaker Oats	68	68½
Ralston Purina	35⅝	35⅞
Raytheon Corp	32¾	32¾
Raytheon	78¾	78¾
Reebok Intl	28⅛	28⅛
Reynolds Metals	49¾	50¼
Rockwell Intl	24½	24¾
Rohm & Haas	39	39
Royal Dutch	80¾	80¾
Rubbermaid	56¾	57⅛
Safeco Corp	42	41⅞
St Paul Cos	66¼	65¾
Salomon Inc	28¾	28⅝
Santa Fe S Pac	10⅝	10⅝
Sara Lee Corp	48⅝	49¼
Scecorp	44¾	44¼
Schering Plough	59⅝	60⅛
Schlumberger	62	62¼
Scott Paper	32⅝	33¼
Seagram	110½	110⅝
Sears Roebuck	35¾	35¾
Sec Pacific	26⅝	27¼
Shell Trans	54¾	54¼
Sherwin Wilms	22¾	22½
Skyline Corp	14¾	14½
Snap-On-Tools	29	29
Southern Co	30⅜	29¾
Sthwestern Bell	57½	57½
Stanley Works	37½	37½
Sun Company	27⅛	26⅞
Sunmss	33¾	34¾
Super Valu	26¼	26
Syntex Corp	38½	38¼
TRW Inc	41½	41¼
Tandem Comp	9¾	9¾
Tandy Corp	26	26¼
Telecom Corp	1⅛	1⅛
Teledyn	20⅞	20⅞
Temple Inland	42¾	43¾
Tenneco	34½	32¾
Texaco	58¾	59¼
Texas Inst	28⅝	28⅝
Texas Utilities	40	39¾
Textron	36¾	36
Time Warner	82¼	83
Times-Mirror	26¾	26¾
Timken	23¾	23¾
Torchmark	51¼	52⅛
Toys R Us	27¾	27¾
Transamerica	38⅜	38⅛
Travelers Corp	18⅜	18⅜
Tribune	35¾	35¾
Tyco Labs	31¼	32
UAL Corp	123¾	124
UST Inc	32¾	32¾
USX Marathon	27	27¼
Unilever NV	94	93¾
Union Camp	44¾	45
Union Carbide	17¾	17¾
Union Pacific	45¼	45¼
Unisys Corp	4	4¼
USAIR Group	10¼	10¼
US/RG Corp	6¾	6½
US Life	44½	44¾
US West	34½	34¾
United Tech	68¾	68¾
Utd Telecomms	22¼	22½
Unocal Corp	23¾	23¾
Upjohn	40¾	40¾
VF Corp	34¾	34¾
Wal-Mart Stores	47¼	47½
Warner-Lambert	69¾	70¼
Waste Mngmnt	35¾	35¾
Wells Fargo	57¾	58¾
Westinghouse El	15¾	16
Weyerhaeuser	23⅜	24¼
Whirlpool	35¼	35¾
Whittman	12¼	12⅜
Winn Dixie	36¼	36
Woolworth	25¾	25⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	62¼	62¾
Xerox	60¾	61¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Tunstall	195p (+20p)
NFC	232p (+10p)
BAT	629p (+10p)
News Corp	678p (+12p)
Bass	945p (+11p)
Reuters	878p (+9p)
Rank Org	652p (+12p)
Edbro	268p (+128p)
Hawker Siddeley	721p (+48p)
Legal & General	383p (+9p)
Vodafone	356p (+12p)

FALLS:

Chase Manh	906p (–18p)
Bankamerica	1900p (–48p)
Broken Hill	609p (–12p)
CMB Packaging	1525p (–13p)
Dana	1481p (–50p)
Glaxo	765p (–15p)

Closing Prices..Page 27

RECENT ISSUES

Baillie Gifford Japan Wts	110	–10
Bune Mining Warrants	2½	...
Capital Ventures 1p	83	...
Culver 1p (4)	4	...
Drayton Recovery Trust (100)	95	...
Dumas Group 10p (25)	26	...
English & Scottish Warrants	17	...
Eurotunnel SA 1991 Wts	215	+5
Fidelity Euro Values Uts (500)	473	–1
Frost Group (235)	276	–1
JIB Group 10p (195)	201	...
Latin Americn Extra Yld (587)	563	...
M & G Income Inv Cap 1p (28)	18	...
M & G Income Inv Geared Uts	61½	...
M & G Income Inv Inc 1p (44)	44	...
M & G Inc Inv Packg Uts (100)	97	...
Morgan Grenfell Eqty Ut (500)	499	–1
Simpsons of Cornhill 5p (50)	44	...
Wills Group Warrants	2½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo Eastern Plant N/P (33)	5	...
Arwoods N/P (100p)	7	–1
Brent Chemicals 10p N/P (120)	14	–1
De La Rue N/P (350)	79	–14

Nervous investors stay on sidelines

New York — Shares continued weak in late-morning activity as little emerged to induce nervous investors to buy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fluctuated in a tight range. The average was down 6.49 points at 2,896.24 in early training. Declining shares led advancing sh

COMMENT

Fireworks on the exchanges

Although the turbulence in the foreign exchanges still falls well short of a traditional autumn sterling crisis, the government is playing with fire in the currency markets. The Treasury and the Bank of England are behaving with the insouciance of a pair of small boys opening a box of matches.

Yesterday morning's well-publicised purchases of sterling by the Bundesbank and the Bank of France had a beneficial effect far out of proportion to the small amounts of sterling bought.

Within a few minutes of the Bundesbank's buying orders getting around the markets, sterling had jumped from a perilous DM2.84 to a comfortable DM2.8550. Just as important, it had pierced strong technical resistance against the dollar at $1.80 to stand at $1.8070. The markets heaved a sigh of relief and the sterling crisis that never happened seemed to be all but over — until Norman Lamont emerged from his conclave of finance ministers in Brussels.

Instead of dismissing the predictable questions about sterling with the equally predictable "no comment", Mr Lamont's spokesman treated the markets to an amazingly explicit denial of any intention to support the pound: "I understand the Bundesbank placed a large order. It wasn't intervention, it was executing an order." Minutes later, the pound was back at DM2.8450 and below resistance at $1.80. Dealers were openly questioning the government's desire to see sterling stronger. The morning's good work was totally undone.

What on earth was the Treasury up to? Whether the Bundesbank was actually buying sterling for its own reserves (ie, intervening in the technical sense) or merely acting for a customer was irrelevant. It is inconceivable that the Germans would have openly placed large buy orders for sterling without consulting the Bank of England. So the markets could hardly be blamed for drawing one of two conclusions from yesterday's shenanigans: either the Treasury did not know what the Bank of England was doing; or the Chancellor decided that he wanted sterling to stay below DM2.85. The second explanation is perhaps the less likely, but it would at least have an economic rationale in speeding recovery. But even to hint at devaluation at a time like this would indeed be to play with fire.

Bankers rally

The 28 banks involved in salvaging the Maxwell family's fortunes are following what has become a well-trodden path in the past year. They have appointed National Westminster as a lead banker to talk to the company, arrange meetings and circulate the piles of paperwork. They have elected a steering committee which will negotiate with the businesses and NM Rothschild, advising the Maxwells. Most important, they have agreed to give the businesses a breathing space to formulate a survival plan. This was no surprise since the lenders have far too much at stake to let the businesses slide into receivership.

Now comes the hard part. Kevin Maxwell and Rothschilds must present the banks with acceptable restructuring proposals. While some of the gaps in the companies' finances can be plugged with unsecured assets, the plans will also include a disposal programme and a call for fresh funds. The dismantling of the late Robert Maxwell's diverse business empire is set to continue. The banks' self-preservation instincts have so far saved the Maxwell businesses from collapse. Kevin Maxwell must use all his talents to save what he can of his father's legacy.

Private medicine runs a pricing temperature

With surgeons earning £500,000 and hospital beds costing £750, the health insurance business has problems.

Liz Dolan reports



More than six million people with private medical insurance are facing premium increases of up to 35 per cent on January 1 as the industry fights to combat soaring claims and treatment costs.

The three million people insured with the British United Provident Association , the country's largest private medical insurance group, will have to pay increases averaging 20 per cent. That is on top of average rises of 18 per cent in 1991. Private Patients Plan, which has 1.7 million subscribers, is planning premium increases of between 10 per cent and 35 per cent. And Western Provident Association, the third largest group, is raising premiums by between 6 per cent and 26 per cent. In virtually all cases, the elderly will take the brunt of the increases.

In addition, Bupa has told private hospitals with which it deals that it will not accept any price increases this year, despite the fact that medical inflation is currently 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

These are crisis measures taken to try and sort out a near emergency in the private medical insurance market. The departure earlier this month of several senior executives from Bupa, following insurance losses of £63 million, was just one outward sign of the problems under the surface.

According to Mike Williams, marketing manager of Orion, the private health insurance company: "The BUPA loss was dramatic, but in many ways it was symptomatic of problems facing private health insurers generally. Put very simply, not enough is being charged for the product. And the main reason for that is the competitive nature of the business." In other words, intense competition in the late-Eighties sparked a price war that everyone agrees was spearheaded by the largest insurer, desperately trying to hang on to its market share.

The problem was exacerbated when several composite insurance companies, notably Norwich Union, decided they wanted some of the rich pickings on which Bupa and the others were feasting.

Norwich Union's arrival in October 1990 into a rapidly deteriorating market was heralded by an expensive advertising campaign. Patrick Smith, managing director of NU Healthcare, admits the timing could have been better, but says: "We're trading well ahead of a highly ambitious budget. We are taking on 15,000 new lives a month at the moment." NU refuses to divulge its advertising spend, which is still substantial, because "competition is so cut throat". Mr Smith added that premiums may rise early next year, but not by as much as those of competitors. "We are a young company, so our claims have been quite low, and we've never been a cut-price business, anyway."

Since 1979, the number of people with private health insurance in the UK has trebled to between 6 million and 7 million. Premium income has grown to more than £1 billion. Bupa has seen its market share fall from more than 80 per cent in the Seventies to less than 50 per cent.

Edward Lea, Bupa's finance director, said: "It's true we tried to hang on to market share without working out the pricing considerations properly. We underpriced, and failed to forecast the level of claims correctly. We're now addressing the problem properly, not just by getting rid of people but by considering every aspect of costs. If we lose market share now, so be it. We are no longer going to compete for unprofitable business."

Since the Conservatives came to power, the number of private beds in the UK has increased from 6,500 to 13,000, with the bulk of the increase coming after 1988. Some 80 per cent of the occupants are paid for by insurance companies.

The growth has been so intense that, according to Julian Stainton, managing director of Western Provident Association: "Britain is now overbedded. Some hospitals are currently facing occupancy rates of between 50 and 55 per cent and, for the first time ever, private hospitals are going out of business." Competition is also growing from NHS pay beds. WPA predicts they could outstrip the number of beds in the private sector in five years.

While premiums have been held back, the level of claims and medical costs have both risen sharply over the past two years. Roy Forman, chief executive of PPP, said "No one quite knows why claims have been rising so fast, though I am sure that part of the reason is people hurrying to take advantage of their company scheme before they are made redundant." Claims also grow as the customer base matures. Mr Williams said: "In the corporate market, when you first take on a group, you get a honeymoon period when claims are low. Later on, as more staff discover exactly what's on offer, claims start to go up."

Last year, PPP settled 3,000 claims of more than £10,000. One cost £155,000. WPA has spent the past two years campaigning strongly to bring down what Mr Stainton describes as "outrageous medical charges". He said: "At last people are realising what we've been saying was true. Mark-ups of 20,000 to 30,000 per cent aren't uncommon. A competent cardiac surgeon in London can now earn around £500,000 a year. It's a gravy train."

Mr Stainton concedes that hospitals do face heavy demands on their resources because of the speed with which medical technology changes. "Twenty years ago, if you had a gammy knee, the doctor said 'tough'. Now, you get a new knee. But they still charge far too much. One of the reasons is that the biggest insurer owns the biggest number of hospitals. It's the only profitable side of their business and they need to keep the profits up."

Mr Stainton argues that merely pushing up premiums to cover costs cannot be the only solution. He says WPA is already getting 100 letters a week from people who can no longer afford the premiums, which he calculates are 25 per cent below what they should be. "An elderly couple may easily have to pay an annual premium of £3,000 after tax, but that's the cost of four nights in a private hospital in London. We gamble on three nights in any one year. If they spend five nights, we're losing money. And some of them spend 50 nights in hospital."

Ella Davenhall, acting chief executive of the Independent Healthcare Association, the hospitals' organisation, said: "I think it's a good thing that things have got into such a state, because it means the two sides are at last beginning to get together and discuss the situation. Bupa's statement that it will not accept price rises will obviously cause our members problems, but that's what's making everyone sit down and talk. We're saying, 'That's fine, but now we need to talk about why you're saying that'."

Spiralling costs are causing some insurers to consider the American system of "pre-authorisation", requiring people to warn insurers before they start clocking up costs rather than when the treatment is over. Others are considering no claims bonuses, but these are still something of an ethical hot potato. Mr Williams pointed out: "It's one thing to leave a dent in your car untreated to preserve your bonus; it's quite another if the same principle is applied to a human being."

'An elderly couple may pay a premium of £3,000, but that's the cost of four nights in a private hospital. We gamble on three nights in any year'

Howard hopes for interest in credits

Present a typical 16-year-old with a book of vouchers worth £2,000, and he, or she, will feel an irresistible urge to spend them. That is the simple principle, and fervent hope, behind the government's Training Credits scheme.

There is also a hope that ownership of the credits will encourage teenagers to seek training relevant to their needs and of high enough quality to satisfy their expectations.

Guided by counsellors, youngsters can use their credits to buy careers advice and courses provided by the higher and further education colleges, as well as by employers.

The development of such a novel and complex system has not proved straightforward. In an effort to ensure the scheme is responsive to the needs of local economies, and the clients, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, opted to run a series of pilot projects in tandem.

Little more than a year ago, Local Training and Enterprise Councils (Tecs) in England and Wales, and their Scottish equivalent, Local Enterprise Companies (Lecs), were invited to bid to operate a pilot schemes. The first of these, covering 37,000 youngsters, began operation in April.

Yesterday, Mr Howard announced the names of seven Tecs and two Lecs that will begin voucher schemes along similar lines for a further 10 per cent of school leavers next April.

By mid-October, six and a half months after the first pilot schemes began, 27,000 youngsters had been issued with training credits, and 12,000 had started to use them.

A reason for the modest pace of implementation is the need to spread understanding among local business people. Achieving the involvement of small and medium-sized firms, whose failings the voucher system is most urgently needed to address, takes time.

None the less, the employment department highlighted the experience of the South and East Cheshire Tec, which has recorded an 11 per cent increase in the number of school leavers staying on in full-time education, and a 5 per cent rise in the number starting jobs including a formal training element.

Until more evidence is available, the biggest concern over the voucher scheme will remain that it is underresourced. A squeeze on the Youth Training budget has been hurting.

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, argues that the cash limit on the voucher may also pose a constraint on the amount of training youngsters receive. He argues for legislation to oblige employers to provide training opportunities.

If the pilot schemes fail to demonstrate that universal and effective training can be achieved without legislation, then Mr Howard may be obliged to lean on employers to take part if he is to achieve his goal of universal entitlement to vouchers among school leavers by 1996.

ROSS TIEMAN
industrial correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Leader of fashion

SIR Ralph Halpern, former chairman and chief executive of the Burton clothing empire, is bursting back on the British fashion scene. Sir Ralph, who has been keeping a low profile since leaving Burton a year ago with a £2 million payout, is leading efforts to start a new trend among British retailers. As chairman of the British Fashion Council, he is bringing British designers, manufacturers and retailers, including Burton and Harvey Nichols, together to create new brands that, he hopes, will lure back buyers and breathe new life into the fashion industry. "We've gone beyond the 'pile it high and sell it cheap' phase," says Sir Ralph, who ironically started the trend in "anonymous" house brands that have come to dominate British clothing chains. "We are trying to create the type of brand names you see in the States or Italy; to capture the imagination of consumers once again. Fashion retailing changes from time to time, and it is time for something new." He promises more news early in the new year.

Due praise

A THREATENED exposé of the corporate culture of Bain & Co, the American management consultancy where red ties, white shirts and blue suits were considered standard, has been put on ice until the new year. Bob Whittington, former business producer for ITN, put the manuscript to one side to tackle an in-depth study of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. In the book *Bankrupt*, Whittington and Nick Kochan, the co-author, consider the curious world of Agha Hasan Abedi, BCCI's guru-like founder and president. At a particularly lavish annual meeting in the Hoffburg Palace, Vienna, in 1984, Abedi heaped praise on Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditors, "but for whose honest and sincere appraisal of the affairs of our bank we wouldn't have got the authenticity that we have today".



Smells of . . .

YORKSHIRE and Northern Wool Growers, an important organisation in Northern sheep-farming circles, has launched an "own brand" range of after-shave capable of withstanding the worst extremes of British weather. The range includes Wet Gun Dog, Eau de Tom Cat, Old Welsh Sheep Dip, and Total Rejection.

Four leave

STRANGE goings-on at County NatWest, where four market-makers out of a team of 28 have just been made redundant. The unhappy group includes David Butler, who was appointed a director of CNW in May and claims to have been responsible for £1 million of trading profit between now and then. "We were told it was part of a reorganisation," says Butler, aged 29, who began his City career with Pinchin Denny, later taken over by Morgan Grenfell, and joined County after Morgan's demise in 1988. Also to go are David Taylor, Mark Hood and Andy Joad.

Stamp of success

THE loss of his prized Harley Davidson motorcycle has not dampened the spirits of John Gaydon, manager to the stars, and now restaurant entrepreneur. Gaydon, who runs Medialab, a film production company, has teamed up with Willie Robertson, an ex-Lloyd's broker, to open *Willie's Place*, a chic restaurant on the Fulham Road, southwest London. Robertson, who runs Robertson Taylor insurance brokers and counts David Bowie among his clients, attended Harrow with Gaydon, who has managed bands such as King Crimson and Emerson, Lake & Palmer. One of Robertson's more notorious stunts occurred one evening at Tramp nightclub with Keith Moon, hell-raising drummer of The Who. "Keith said: 'there are 12 people eating fillet steaks. If you take your shoes and socks off, get on the tables and put your foot on all the steaks, I'll give you my business tomorrow'," says Robertson, who promptly did so and won the account.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Deal between Allied Breweries and Brent Walker no giveaway

From Mr Roy Moss

Sir, We are faced with major changes to our industry which are not of our making, so it was with some concern that we read your editorial comment of November 21. May I make the following points:

We may be generous but we don't give our pubs away — to anybody.

Brent Walker through Pubmaster would pay a fair rent for our 750 properties depending on the final agreed legal terms, hence the suggestion that "not a penny will be paid" by Brent Walker is unfounded. The supply agreement would be for seven years but you omit that it would be non-exclusive.

The houses which would be going to Pubmaster are spread broadly across the North, the Midlands and the South.

It is Brent Walker's estate from which we would be acquiring 50 houses and they are situated in the North East and East Anglia. These are areas in which we are less well represented.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MOSS.
Chairman & Chief Executive,
Allied Breweries Limited,
24 Portland Place, W1.

UK oil and gas

From Rev Professor W. H. C. Frend

Sir, Is it necessary to continue to record the production of North Sea oil and gas as a separate entity from other British manufacturing?

In the years before World War I, when Britain produced some 230 million tons of coal annually and exported about half to world markets this was regarded simply as part of our manufacturing strength. Why now the difference? Surely we have got used to the idea that our oil and gas reserves are not merely a temporary bonus as claimed when the first oil arrived on shore in 1975, but are likely to last for as much as another century? The rise of 1 per cent in energy production should not be played down. It is apparently finding markets and this might suggest that the recession is ending.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. C. FREND,
The Clerks Cottage,
Little Wilbraham,
Cambridge.

Pound's value

From Mr Peter Robeson

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky says all three main political parties have "repeatedly and unequivocally ruled out" the option of devaluing the pound in the ERM.

Would he/you please quote precisely when, by whom and in what context these promises were made? I confess to have missed them.

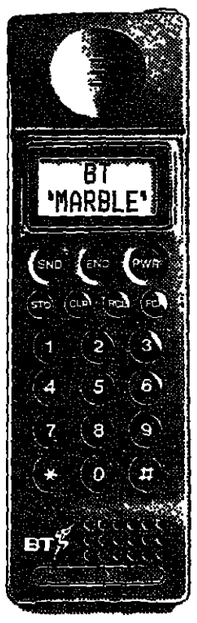
And is it now the case that such statements can be relied on any more than Sir Stafford Cripps' nine-times denial of his intention to devalue or Harold Wilson's repeated affirmation of the $2.80 parity?

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROBESON,
Thatchers,
Happisburgh,
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Former chairman of Equiticorp on trial for fraud

FROM REUTER IN AUCKLAND

THE former chairman of Equiticorp International, the defunct stock market raider, went on trial yesterday charged with fraud. The alleged offences relate to a complex $327 million deal concluded one day before the 1987 share market crash.

The charges are against Alan Hawkins and his lawyer Robert Darvell. Both plead not guilty to charges of fraud and conspiracy. Mr Hawkins is now bankrupt but was once worth more than NZ$150 million. The case stems from an agreement by Equiticorp to buy the New Zealand government's controlling stake in New Zealand Steel through a share swap. New Zealand's Serious Fraud Office brought the charges in a preliminary hearing that is expected to last until after Christmas.

Equiticorp, once one of New Zealand's largest companies and former owner of Britain's Guinness Peat Group, has been in statutory management, a form of receivership, since early 1989.

Willy Young, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Hawkins and Mr Darvell intended Equiticorp to take the government's New Zealand Steel shares in exchange for 93 million Equiticorp shares worth NZ$327 million.

The government, not wishing to be a long-term holder of Equiticorp stock, required an underwriting arrangement in which Buttle Wilson, an investment bank, accepted an obligation to find a buyer for the shares at the same price.

Buttle Wilson, in turn, insisted on acceptance by two Hawkins companies of an obligation to place or buy the shares at the same price before October 20, 1988. Mr Hawkins and Mr Darvell did not disclose in detail what Mr Young called their "grand strategy" to the Equiticorp board. The share crash meant the implications changed radically, he said.

Mr Hawkins and Mr Darvell then used Equiticorp money to buy the New Zealand Steel shares. Their action was detrimental to Equiticorp, but for Mr Hawkins's commercial benefit, Mr Young alleged.

CSR interim result slides to Aus$110m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CSR, the Australian sugar and building materials group, reported net profits of Aus$110 million (£49 million), before extraordinary items, for the six months to end-September, down from Aus$206 million.

The company added that its net profit for the full year is certain to be below Aus$200 million (Aus$326 million) "and may be well below", depending on trading during the rest of the year.

CSR denied, however, that it had an interest in Czarnikow, the privately owned London commodities broker, following market talk on Friday that it had bought a stake in the brokerage.

Bill Bennett, CSR deputy managing director, said: "At present we have no stake in Czarnikow." But he had no comment on whether CSR was considering buying a stake.

He said Czarnikow had been CSR's sugar broker for 100 years and that rationalisation in the commodity brokerage industry had in some cases resulted in equity links between commodity companies and brokers.

"We have been talking with them [Czarnikow] about developments [in the industry]. We cannot say anything more than this," Mr Bennett said.

Ian Burgess, managing director, said the fall in half-year profit was expected. He said: "The reasons for the decline in profitablity are the recession and a pervasive lack of consumer confidence in Australia and the United States, together with low world prices for sugar and aluminium."

He added that CSR had taken steps to cut costs by reducing or closing production. "The position has now been reached where we are faced, in many businesses, with the dilemma of how best to make further adjustments without compromising the company's ability to take advantage of the inevitable recovery," he said.

CSR cut its interim dividend to 10 cents from 16 cents a year earlier. Sales fell to Aus$2.22 billion (Aus$2.44 billion).

Adsteam payout 'unlikely'

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Adelaide Steamship Co is unlikely to pay any dividends before its refinancing plan expires in June 1996, shareholders heard at yesterday's annual meeting.

Ken Russell, Adsteam's chairman, told the meeting: "Regrettably, it is indisputable that shareholders are unlikely to receive dividends from the company while the arrangements contemplated by the plan are in place."

The chairman said company bankers had agreed to continue facilities until June 1996, provided Adsteam complied with conditions and operated within acceptable business plans.

He added that the refinancing plan was almost in place, with just one of the banks to its 48.7 per cent-owned David Jones Ltd yet to approve the scheme.

Adsteam announced a net loss of Aus$1.36 billion (£600 million) for the year to June 30, mainly due to investment write-downs and losses, compared with a $220 million profit the previous year.

Mr Russell said sales for Woolworths Ltd, the retailer, in the current financial year were higher than those of the corresponding period last year. Woolworths is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Industrial Equity Ltd which is owned in equal parts by David Jones, Adsteam and Tooth and Co Ltd.



Music of the future: Neil Robinson expects a "further significant improvement" at Yorkshire this year

Metro sounds upbeat note

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

METRO Radio sounded a confident note on prospects for advertising revenue at its recently acquired Yorkshire Radio Network subsidiary, despite suffering a 22.8 per cent decline in full-year taxable profits.

The USM-quoted commercial radio group, which is based in Newcastle, suffered a fall in pre-tax profit from £2.19 million to £1.69 million in the year to September 30. Profits were weighed down by a net interest charge of £239,000 (compared with investment income of £496,000 last time) as a result of the acquisition of YRN. Trading profits climbed from £1.7 million to £1.93 million, on turnover ahead by 53 per cent to £12.8 million.

Metro's local advertising revenue increased in every station, rising by 6.5 per cent across the group to £7.1 million, although national revenue fell by 8.7 per cent. Neil Robinson, the chairman and chief executive, said the groundwork on Yorkshire had been done and a "further significant improvement" in itsperformance was expecued this year.

Earnings per share fell to 7.2p (15.3p), with fully diluted earnings of 7.2p (14.3p). The final dividend is maintained at 3.5p, making an unchanged total of 5p for the year. The shares were steady at 183p.

Lionheart receives cash boost

LIONHEART, the consumer products and storage systems supplier, is to receive a £2.5 million cash injection from The Newell Company, of America, in return for a 4.8 per cent equity stake in the group. The cash from Newell will be used for acquisitions, the company says, and one deal is already under consideration.

Newell will subscribe for 9.34 million new shares at 26.5p each, which was Lionheart's middle market price on Friday, and has agreed not to take its stake above 20 per cent in the next five years without Lionheart's consent. Newell makes and distributes high volume hardware, including cookware and glassware, and industrial products. Annual sales exceed $1 billion.

Paul Lever, Lionheart's executive chairman, said Newell's involvement would help the group develop its activities in low-price basic home products.



Hawkins: hit by crash

Playtime helps JLI rise to £1.14m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

IMPROVED margins and reduced interest costs helped JLI Group, the food processing and distribution company, lift pre-tax profits by 19 per cent to £1.14 million in the six months to end-September.

Earnings per share rose from 3.2p to 3.6p and shareholders collect an interim dividend of 1.5p against 1.43p.

Yoav Gottesman, chief executive, said the profits improvement reflects the group's decision to focus on value added food processing activities, resulting in "higher margins and better returns".

JLI also benefited from a small contribution from July's acquisition of Playtime, the leading supplier of packaged nuts and popcorn to retailers and cinemas. Mr Gottesman expects Playtime, which holds the sole rights to distribute fresh popcorn to Cannon and Odeon cinemas, to make a "very significant contribution" for the full year.

Turnover, reflecting discontinued activities, declined from £45.3 million to £40.2 million. Operating margins improved from 4.2 to 4.4 per cent.

Reduced borrowings and lower interest rates led to a fall in interest costs from £964,000 to £617,000.

In July, JLI made a one-for-two rights issue at 87p a share, raising £7.75 million, to fund the acquisitions of Playtime and Langwood, a vegetable supplier. JLI's gearing stood at 30 per cent at the last year-end, and Mr Gottesman expects it to finish at a similar level at the end of the current financial year.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Park Foods	Foods	
2	Dixons Grp	Drapery,Stns	
3	BTR	Industrial	
4	Nthn Foods	Foods	
5	Cray Elect	Electrical	
6	Booker	Foods	
7	Highland Distl	Breweries	
8	Allied-Lyons	Breweries	
9	Cowan De Grt	Industrial	
10	Spandex	Industrial	
11	Erskine Hse	Industrial	
12	Albert Fisher	Foods	
13	Greenall Whn	Breweries	
14	Conroy Pet	Oils, Gas	
15	Tex Hldgs	Industrial	
16	Berisford Intl	Foods	
17	Cadbury-Schw	Foods	
18	Young A'	Breweries	
19	Nu-Swift	Industrial	
20	Sears	Drapery,Stns	
21	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
22	Flogas	Industrial	
23	Wellcome	Industrial	
24	Ranger	Oils, Gas	
25	Eurotunnel Uts	Transport	
26	Wessex Water	Water	
27	Delta	Electrical	
28	Mid Sout Res	Oils, Gas	
29	Slough Estates	Property	
30	ICI	Chems,Plas	
31	Maunsleigh	Property	
32	Lloyds	Banks,Disc	
33	T & N	Industrial	
34	Nat West	Banks,Disc	
35	Unilever	Industrial	
36	Reed Int	Newspapr,Pub	
37	Br Airways	Transport	
38	Owners Abrd	Leisure	
39	Warner Howrd	Industrial	
40	Reed Executive	Industrial	
41	FR Group	Motors,Air	
42	Exp Co Louis	Oils, Gas	
43	Lex Service	Motors,Air	
44	Bilton (P)	Property	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

Small gains at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end December 6. §Contango day December 9. Settlement day December 16. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
183	120	Allied Colloids	165	- 2	3.5	2.8	16.7
395	301	Amersham	375	- 1	11.8	4.4	18.7
414	28½	Anglo Utd	242				64
247	148	BTP	242	+21	6.5	4.6	15.2
£1600	£1281	Bayer DM50	9812			5.9	12.0
224	129	Bibby	216	- 1	9.5	7.3	14.8
160p	116	Bristol Clarke	134½			3.6	
128	42	Coalite Gp	93			5.9	19.8
111	94	Cookson	105	- 1	11.0		12.6
203	146	Croda Intl	180		4.7	12.4	
218	165	Ellis & Everard	198		0.6	6.9	16.0
18	12½	Evode	12½		0.4	11.4	14.1
124	43	Fisons	64		11.5	3.9	10.6
383	202	Hickson	382	- 4	8.0	3.9	17.5
200	93	Hickson	8025			7.3	
9925	6795	Hoechst	1197	+ 5	55.0	6.1	21.5
1381	846	ICI	1579	+ 5	47.8	4.1	14.0
607	435	Laporte	577	+ 4	7.6	4.1	15.0
351	251	Leigh	349		5.1	2.7	14.7
265	136	NFC	249			2.0	16.4
1816	1287	Norsk Hydro	1325			10.4	
400	312	Pearson	389			10.4	13.1
390	308	do 'A'	380			10.4	13.1
246	111	Rptc	246			3.0	24.3
145	73	Rotork	143	+ 3	3.3	1.5	28.8
386	203	Scapa	378			6.4	
17	12	Scapa Spesk	12½			10.0	6.1
364	204	Wassall Stroppe	348			0.1	0.8
20	12	Wernerwatch	17			16.3	7.6
260	215	Whitehead R	285			3.5	15.1
563	327	Yorks Chem	522	- 4	4.7	2.8	14.6
227	99	Yule Catto	222	- 1			

DRAPERY, STORES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
142	20	Alan Paul	20				22.7
445	267	Alexon	408	+ 2		2.7	5.7
129	58½	Amber Day	129	+ 1		6.0	2.8
339	239	Appeal Plc	280			6.0	20.0
109	52	Ashley (Laura)	90	- 5		4.8	18.4
338	255	Aspinal	290			9.5	22.1
385	350	Austin Reed	360			5.5	35.5
150	125	Bemlin	146			3.8	50.0
195	150	Bissalls	151				34.3
229	73	Bm Cp	216	+ 1			24.3
175	98	Blacks Leis	128	+ 1			34.1
336	178	Body Shop	330	+ 1		1.2	0.5
38½	5	Bogan & Jackson	5½			1.9	44.4
290	183	Brown (N)	289	- 2½	2.7	9.6	19.9
94½	30	Burton	38½			4.0	3.0
188	113	Connor 'A'	178			12.5	11.0
355	273	Church	313	- 1	7.0	3.5	13.5
183	99	Coats Viyella	175	- 1	5.5	4.4	10.3
109	109	Colorvision	117		5.0	2.0	12.9
336	154	Coura Fashn	320		3.5	2.0	11.4
220	82	Crown Eye	200			2.2	13.3
32	17½	Dewhirst (J)	29	+ 1	0.8	3.5	19.2
274	125	Dixons Grp	218	+ 6	9.7	7.0	21.1
437	283	Dunhill	437	+ 1			15.0
37	11	ERA Gp	16½			16.0	2.7
698	495	Elys (Wimbldn)	780			5.8	3.4
87	24	Empire	229	+ 1			23.8
248	97½	Fields (Majs)	10				14.7
19	8	Fine Art Dev	350			4.0	6.3
380	212	Fitzwilton (El)	290	+ 6			16.3
95	60	Fitzwilton Grp	218	+ 6			5.4
454	338	Forminster	453			2.7	14.4
67½	22	French Conn	35	- 2		6.9	9.5
87	38	Gebbie	45			2.2	5.1
76	41	Gent Sir	52			3.0	11.3
59	32	Goldsmiths Gp	37			3.5	46.6
2000	1350	GUS	1795	- 3		37.5	17.6
1455	1048	do 'A'	1295			37.5	17.6
32	20	Hampdn Hse	30			3.2	14.2
320	153	Hamleys	301	+ 1		2.0	11.7
29½	12	Hedges Plc	23				6.5
35	16	Hedgers	22				
193	83	Hogg Robinson	192	+ 1		5.5	3.9
19	11	Holdcroft	13½			12.1	12.1
50	20	Howard Mktg	30			10.0	6.9
136	90	Hse of Fraser	130			10.0	6.5
288	194	Jacques Vert	194			12.2	8.8
582	359	Kingfisher	567			10.0	12.9
318	201	Ladbroke	311	+ 1		4.0	12.2
301	213½	Lasmo	282			25.8	21.1
467	195	Laura Ashley	455				
65	42	Lewis (J)	65				
410	163	Lilley (John)	410				
163	66	Liverpool	163				
318	201	Marks & Spencer	284	+ 1		9.4	12.9
301	213½	Matalan (John)	430			5.3	27.8
467	195	Mayfair	126	+ 1			
113	113½	Moss Bros	61			0.7	5.6
113½	90	Next	150	- 2	2.5	2.2	17.5
65	12½	Oliver (G)	12½		0.5	4.0	13.8
124½	101	Peacocks	118		2.5	2.1	17.5
117	72	Pentos Group	221	+ 4	10.0	24.7	2.1
247	135	Ramsay Group	54		0.5	0.9	6.5
191	94	Reeves Group	698	+ 2	9.1	1.7	14.5
145	99	S & U Stores	97	+ 2	12.5	12.9	11.2
743	330	Sherwood Grp	698	+ 2		3.7	14.7
104½	71	Sketchley	97			6.4	7.6
301	301	Smith WH 'A'	450			9.1	7.5
93	83	Specialcare	88	+ 4	5.0	5.0	29.5
400	41	Storehouse	228				15.6
125	86	T & S Stores	27			7.2	6.5
235	141	The Rock	149			4.5	15.6
166	109	Time Products	62			0.5	8.6
65	35	Usher (Ronald)	68			3.5	6.9
78	55	Vivat	68				10.6
75	27	Wenham	27			1.8	
57	18	Whiting Office	49				
37	15	Wid of Leather	185			3.3	2.4
121	51	Wyevale	195				17.4
9	5	Xtra-dation	6½				

ELECTRICALS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
151	90	AB Electr	91				13.6
203	73	ACT Group	139	- 1	0.1	0.1	3.6
203	168	Accle	203		5.6	3.5	9.9
16	10	Anson Comp	10				11.9
230	120	Ashtead	300		4.2	1.4	14.2
65	34	Alphameric	114		4.3	3.1	16.0
30	30	Assetnet	31½				
50	50	Asst Hdgs	89				
107½	63	Atlas	95		1.4	3.5	13.3
30	30	Aztec	15				5.4
108	108	Azon Sec	135		4.9	4.8	5.4
270	168	Beales Hunter	276		9.1	4.4	13.5
283	168	Bennett & Fouts	224	+ 4	10.2	7.9	10.4
475	314	Bibby	323	+ 2	19.2	7.0	11.5
354	154	Bicc	302	- 2			5.7
4100	1460	Borland	4075	- 25			35.1
239	175	Bowthorpe	220	+ 3½	13.3	5.5	9.9
423½	268	BT	345½		0.1	1.6	41.6
74	7	Burndale	8½				5.9
201	136	Cable Wireless	136	+ 1	11.8	8.7	16.4
301	429	Cambridge Elc	217	+ 1	10.9	6.7	13.8
230	132	Chloride	281				14.0
22	11	CML Micro	12	+ 1	2.9	14.0	
194	131	Comper People	16				
18	102	Cranborne	69				
451	66	Cray Elect	150	+ 2	14.0	4.5	13.5
400	276	Delta	349	- 3	5.6	5.0	10.2
99	135	Desmond Elt	150			5.1	17.2
400	161½	Domino	396			3.4	31.3
69	49	Dowding Mills	63			3.6	24.3
1735	1093	Druck	735	+ 4		3.0	1.7
288	193	Electrocomponents	237			3.2	9.7
254	17	El Data Plc	30			2.2	16.5
11	11	Elexon House	28			2.0	10.0
54	22	Elmira	30½			3.0	3.1
871	181	Eurotherm	302	+ 1		3.1	16.0
78	35	FKI	221	- 4	5.5	2.5	14.1
156	76	Filtronic Elec	15				4.4
246	36	Flextech	15				10.3
19	4	Fremont	7				2.2
49	19	Fox Tech	10½				
82	41	Forward Gp	70				
277½	111	Forward Tech	180½				
166	166	GEC	180½				
435	345	Hadrad Simon	652				
96	39	Holdene	392				
345	345	Hodgson Gp	688				
120	20	INSTEM	24				
163	163	Jones Stroud	204				
20	20	Kembrey	204	- 13			
103	97	Kewill Syst	103				
18	18	Kode	18				
2	2	Laser Scan	2				
59	59	LBM Sys	255				
255	255	Leading	255				
158	158	Lee Electronics	158				
144	144	Logica	383				
63	63	LPA Ind	63				
393	223	Macrolo	393				
102	102	Magnetic Mtr	310				
116	116	Marlow Sys	116				
93	93	Micrologic Gp	178				
2125	71	Microvitec	113	-30			
181	93	Micron	181				
187	118	Milbrook	187				
71	63	MMT Comp	83				
210	44	Mtg Intnl	242	- 3	2.0	3.3	14.3
62	48	Mitchell Elect	71				
45	45	Murray Exter	41½				
3900	3900	MYNEC	63	-75			
63	63	Newmark (L)	43				
43	43	Norbain	43				
40	40	Northerner	89		0.7	2.2	10.8
89	89	Nova Group	89	- 2	2.5	8.1	
						1.6	

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Nat	274		9.5	4.6	8.9
183	126	Allied Irish	168	- 1	1.5	5.7	6.3
60	23	Antrobus (JH)	35				
202	121	Aus New Z	198				6.3
2831	1218	Bankamerica	1900			7.3	23.7
173½	115½	Bk of Ireland	1900	- 40			
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Intl	1900	- 1			
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340		16.0	6.3	25.5
186	141	Bank Scotland	177	+ 4	21.1	7.3	25.7
499	327	Barclays	388	+ 2			19.9
12	3	Beaufort	3				
270	195	Brown Shipley	227		8.0	4.7	
470	313	Charterhse	460	+ 2			
464	313	Close Allen	460	+ 2	25.0	5.4	
78	52	Cntls	66		3.8	7.7	13.0
1275	531	Chase Manh	900	- 18			
1037	587	Chiltern	993				
270	220	Citibk Brnt	269		8.8	4.4	12.9
8500	1500	Commercials	8550	-100			0.8
1233	1191½	Deutsche Bk	1233	+250			2.4
213	35	First Nat Plc	40	- 4	13.0		
355	260	Gerard Nat	266	- 3	20.5	10.3	
256	174	HSBC	250	- 5	15.8	6.7	9.0
302	204	Hambros	300		10.2	3.4	
413	328	Joseph (L)	408		10.2	12.7	
155	107	King Shaxson	108	- 6	16.0	7.3	
377	249	Kleinwort Ben	293	- 6	15.5	5.3	16.5
409	268	Lloyds	385	+ 6	16.0	7.5	9.5
63	44	Lon Scot Bk	49		6.4	13.1	
264	150	Midland	227½			7.0	9.5
363	207	Nat Asset Bk	345	+ 2	17.5	7.3	9.1
357½	247	Nat West	349		22.5	7.3	9.1
512	360	Provident	428		0.5	1.9	22.3
46	24	Rea Bros	35		8.4	6.0	13.9
241	147	Rvl Bk Scot	178	+ 1	14.0	1.7	22.3
1143	640	Schroders	1120		27.0	19.2	3.7
431	205	Stand Chart	329	+ 1	6.4	2.7	
160	120	Union Disc	243	- 1	16.0	4.1	11.0
563	314	Warburg SG	126			4.4	
192	109	do 'A'	183	- 1		4.4	
5800	2500	Wells Fargo	3275	- 7	64		7.6
224	128	Westpac	194		9.3	4.9	
353	253	Wintrust	255				

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
662	480	Allied-Lyons	607	+ 2	18.8	4.1	13.5
1068	882	Bass	945	+11		4.6	12.7
214	164	Boddington	162	- 3	8.0	4.9	11.7
270	173	Bulmer (H.P.)	264		4.2	3.3	9.2
143	98	Burmond Bew	107	- 4	4.0	3.5	14.0
245	135	Dawnay (Jn)	200	+ 6	4.1		
120	83	Eldridge F'A's	90	- 1			14
84	51	Forest Brewing	78			1.9	17.2
450	357	Fuller Sm 'A'	423			6.7	6.5
268	137	Gibbs Mew	138		6.7	4.9	14.3
869	637	Greenall Whit	837	+ 1	20.4	3.7	11.3
371	274	Greenall Whn	356	+ 1	10.8	3.2	12.0
490	374	Greene King	457	- 7		2.5	15.2
538	358½	Guinness	1250			3.5	22.8
1263	877	Highland Distl	1193			2.9	17.4
255	180	Hunter	240			2.5	19.7
198	140	do 'A' Lvg	183	+ 3			5.5
308	225	Highland Dist	255				13.7
278	136	Invergordon Dist	195				15.8
495	435	Macallan-Glen	485			1.4	4.3
235	185	Moss Thorp	225			14.0	4.1
435	357	Matthew Clark	435				16.7
434	346½	Maybrook We	399	+ 2	7.1		13.2
365	231	Macfarlane	360				20.3
1110	1150	SA Breweries	1010	+ 1	15.0		11.0
428	336	Scot & Newc	315		8.7	5.4	10.0
254	174	Vaux Group	338	+ 2	16.3	5.0	30.5
516	409	Whitbread 'A'	438	+ 2	16.3	3.6	16.9
1375	1310	do 'B'	1310			3.8	
393	399	Wolverhampton D	591	+ 2	13.0		16.1
475	369	Young 'A'	458				

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
80	40	Abbey	70				
41	16	Alfreghton	19	+ 1	4.9	5.6	8.5
142	86	Alten	119	- 2		1.5	10.3
260	177	Amec	258				
247	177	Anglia Sec	238	- 1	4.1	2.8	19.9
295	77	Ashtead	109	+ 4		9.0	21.2
247½	95	Ayscough	152	- 5		3.1	5.4
106	99	Bamford (JC)	77	- 2	3.0	3.8	14.9
128	23	Barratt Dev	111		2.8	2.5	7.1
195	39	Bcnz	236	+ 1	11.0	6.2	8.0
277½	192	Bellway	280	- 1			2.1
19	21½	Berkeley Gp	280	- 3	6.4	8.4	7.1
351	102	Bett Bros	185		4.8	6.5	10.7
152	90	Blockleys	125		11.2	4.7	12.7
286	198	Blue Circle	268		28.0	4.9	8.8
998	438	Bmt (Henry)	685			4.6	6.3
111	93	Brandon PLC	97	- 1	7.4	7.6	13.6
147	93	Br Dredging	129		4.8	7.0	38.2
120	89	Bryant	91	- 2	3.4	7.3	10.9
105	61	CALA	62				15.7
269	187	CRH	222	- 2	3.0		
60	33	Caledonian Hdg	50	+ 1	0.4	2.2	
57	8	Cinder Cap	18		0.5	3.3	
40	17	Cooper Clarke	20			23.7	
223	53	Costain	69	- 1	7.6	6.2	6.9
150½	76½	Countryside	41	+ 1			13.6
133	32	Crest Nicholson	58			8.6	
110	53	Crosby	43				
12	1½	Dunhouse	1½				
147½	29	Edmond Hdgs	50	+ 1	0.4	0.8	19.0
177	105	Ellerbk	65		3.9	8.0	8.0
77	49	Elth	228		9.2	5.4	8.0
266	210	Eve Group	88		5.6	11.3	11.4
117	68½	Expanded Bardon	16				
29½	19½	Exploranet	25				
53	2	Fallon Gp	5	- 5	8.3	13.3	4.4
233	85	Freeman Gp	85		4.3	6.7	13.1
104	80	Galliford	89				
90	58	Gibbs & Dandy	80		11.8	1.8	
898	583	Gleeson (M.J)	805	- 5	5.5	19.8	2.1
130	37	Graham Wood	37		3.2	7.3	12.4
91	48	Harrison Ind	59		3.0	4.4	14.0
100½	64	Hawtin-Stuart	64			9.6	5.3
86	63	Hawtonden	21				5.6
55	20	Hay & Smith	20				17.1
308	229	Heywd Wtm	296	- 1		20.0	19.6
369	214	Higgs & Hill	336			3.6	4.3
41	26	How Gp	32	- 1	0.8	4.3	9.3
21	15	Howard Hdgs	15½			10.3	28.1
124	77	Ibstock Johnsen	78	- 1		2.0	39.0
90	43	James	43	- 1	13.0	7.0	8.9
347	248	Laing (J)	33		4.5	8.8	8.3
64	23	Lawrence (W)	38		2.5	7.5	5.0
91	36	Lilley	124	- 1		12.3	3.1
155	118	Lo Chicksdale	97				14.1
205	90	Lovell (Y.J)	203		7.0	4.6	14.4
283	133	Meadow	115		6.3	7.4	29.9
157	87	Morley	93		5.0	7.2	14.2
108	82	Mowlem	139		4.9	4.7	20.2
141	80	Mountford (J)	198			6.9	
308	186	McAlpine (A)	56	- 1		2.4	
114½	37½	McCarthy & S					

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£6.000

Claims required for +33 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

ELECTRICITY

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
295	212	East Midlands	242	- 1		6.4	7.9
271	204½	Eastern Elect	233			6.4	8.5
124½	93½	Hydro Elect	101	- 2		5.1	12.8
295	206	London Elect	241	- 2		5.9	8.2
147	50	Manweb	138	- 2		6.3	8.6
344	230½	Midlands Elec	249	- 2		6.7	8.0
296	206	Northern Elec	255	- 2		6.7	8.6
285	215	Norweb	270			6.1	10.2
313	213	Norweb	270			6.1	13.2
119½	98½	Scottish Power	270			6.1	13.2
295	204	Scottish	253	+ 1			12.2
366	224	Sth Wales	302		16.9	6.4	7.6
309	209	Sth Western	245			6.1	7.6
308½	208½	Southern Elec	268			5.8	8.0
322	227	Yorkshire Elec	275			6.1	7.5
£2810	£1425	Peninsular Utd	£2540	-1300			8.1
179	110	National Pwr	146	+ 1		5.0	8.3
179	112	PowerGen	154½	+ 1		4.8	

FINANCE, LAND

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
337	301	Abingworth	334		4.0	1.6	70.2
49	25	Aitken Hume	36		1.0	3.8	10.0
53	11	Atlantic Sec§	17				
57	37	BWD§	46		1.7	5.1	12.5
54	40	Baltic Plc	125		4.1	4.4	9.1
148	90	Berkeley Govet	121	+ 1		8.8	9.5
118	116	Burns-Anderson	66				
19½	5	Caledonia	15½		13.5	5.7	12.5
378	315	Caradon	2000		25.0	1.7	16.5
2100	1700	Chesterfld	235		8.5	4.8	22.4
293	213	Henderson	155	+ 1	3.0	1.9	13.6
168	103	Guiltdhouse§	8		0.1	2.2	
11	6	Hambros	8½		16.5		
362	130	Harvey Thomp	185				
19	8½	HTCO	8			5.7	6.0
120	53	Ivory Sime	128		3.0	2.3	31.8
12	5½	LIT	11½		7.2	8.4	13.1
135	86	Lon Parkinsge	115		11.3	9.8	
157	94	Lon Ntnl Home	9	+ 1	3.7		
34	24½	Newmarket	24				
413	211	Rathbone Bros	405	- 5	8.0	2.0	18.8
22	9	Rutland Trt	11		0.1	0.9	16.3
88	48	Slough Estates	53		2.5	7.9	9.7
858	575	Slingr & Fried	42	-13			
538	538	Sotheby	650	- 13	3.0	5.0	12.5
88	58	SP Capital	80			2.9	12.2
262	168	Templin Gbrth	249				

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1287	968	Amer Express	1037	- 6	6.1	3.9	21.9
226	206	Electra	206	- 3	37.5	7.5	13.6
110	535	Henderson Ad	665		6.0	8.6	22.2
111	58	Invesco MIM	93	- 1	1.1	1.2	9.1
127	87	MAI	865	+ 15	26.0	3.0	13.1
1355	1355	MAM	1355	+ 1	17.0	4.2	10.5
355	344	M & G	344		3.5	3.9	26.9
145	95	Smith New Ct	120				9.5
58	27	Sterling Trst	56				5.1

FOODS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
565	421	AB Food	427	+ 1		4.1	8.9
325	32	ASDA Group	39	+ 2		3.7	8.5
135	81	Albert Reber	111				
310	10	Alpine Group	270	+11			
234½	192	Ashley Group	44			7.6	6.3
168	112	Assoc Fisheries	146			8.0	11.4
158	153	Bambi (J) O	201				7.3
1000	153	Bemrose (AG)	118			2.7	14.1
155	95	Bemrose Corp§	118	

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0345 717373

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Maximum	87.96	94.07	– 0.48	2.72
International	61.12	65.02	– 0.32	1.35
Dividend Gth	48.52	51.61	– 0.36	5.81
Global Gth Sec	52.80	56.17	– 0.17	2.10
Special Growth	54.04	57.48	– 0.50	2.71
High Inc Equity	129.80	138.00	– 1.20	6.16
Worldwide Bond	210.20	223.00	+ 1.00	6.73
Gilts Fixed Int	115.00	122.00	– 1.10	9.43

ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QU. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580
30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7DQ. 071 374 6801

Amer Inc Gth	27.53	29.19†	– 0.45	2.72
European	65.28	69.34	– 0.46	0.33
European Inc	69.36	73.18†	– 0.42	1.67
Exempt	765.00	792.40†	– 2.30	5.15
Extra Inc	37.31	40.75	– 0.25	6.08
F East Emerg Ec	47.21	50.65	– 0.29	1.37

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing: 0793 610366

High Inc	326.30	347.50	+ 1.20	5.75
Equity Inc	184.00	195.90	+ 0.90	5.16
High Yield	197.10	209.90†	+ 1.10	5.57
Balanced	547.40	578.70	+ 1.30	3.51
American Inc	33.32	35.48	– 0.14	4.14
Wld Assc Val	30.83	32.83	– 0.01	1.28
Japan	134.20	141.90	+ 0.50	0.01
Secs of Am	302.40	320.70†	– 2.90	0.15

BL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 128, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4PN. 081 663 3030

European Gth	81.41	87.06	....	1.59
1992 Euro Sp Op	59.98	64.14	....	1.60
International Inc	68.36	72.72	....	2.92
N American Gth	46.46	49.68†	....	1.63
Pacific Growth	68.65	73.41	....	2.10
UK Growth Acc	77.97	83.38†	....	2.68
UK Growth Dist	68.42	73.17†	....	3.40
UK Income	56.70	60.63†	....	7.38

BARCLAYS UNICORN
Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544

Capital	85.22	91.36	– 0.86	3.71
Euro Gth Inc	91.52	97.21	– 0.07	1.94
Extra Inc	90.70	97.00†	– 1.05	6.90
General	191.20	204.50	– 1.40	6.25
Gilt Fxd Int	51.51	53.36†	– 0.28	10.20
Income	411.40	440.00	– 4.90	6.25

BARING FUND MANAGERS
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002

American Gth	63.11	66.82	– 0.79	0.30
Amer Smlr Cos	71.63	76.24	– 0.92	....
Australia	61.41	65.79	– 0.62	2.00
Convertibles	45.32	48.46	– 0.10	8.20
Eastern	126.00	135.50	– 0.50	1.60
Equity Income	71.31	75.86†	– 0.23	7.00
Emerging Gth	174.70	185.70	– 1.10	2.20
Euro Smlr Cos	147.50	157.70	– 0.40	1.40
Exempt	68.16	70.33	....	4.00
German Growth	45.75	48.89	– 0.38	1.10
Global Growth	89.53	94.07†	– 0.80	1.37
Japan Growth	152.40	163.10	+ 0.50	....
Japan Smaller	120.70	128.90	– 0.50	....
Portfolio	96.60	100.60	– 0.40	3.60
Recovery	165.10	171.90	– 0.80	1.60
UK Growth	56.18	59.76	– 0.16	4.10
UK Smaller Cos	72.88	77.94†	– 0.08	2.60
Select Managers	52.05	56.32	– 0.26	2.80

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD
190 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132

Balan Gth Acc	80.71	86.32	....	2.71
-do Inc	75.36	80.60	....	2.71
Global Bond	22.58	24.15†	....	6.03
High Yield Acc	40.30	43.10	....	4.90
-do Inc	31.46	33.65	....	4.90
Income Gth Acc	57.39	61.38	....	3.59
-do Inc	40.76	43.60	....	3.59
Service Co Acc	68.59	74.43	....	1.98
-do Inc	65.53	70.08†	....	1.98
Assoc Gth Acc	33.17	35.48	....	1.08
-do Inc	32.55	34.81	....	1.08
Euro Gth Acc	25.32	27.08	....	1.40
-do Inc	24.63	26.34	....	1.40
Mngd P folio	25.00	26.74	....	....

BROWN SHIPLEY
9/17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144

Financial	95.55	101.80	– 0.60	4.64
Smaller Cos Acc	193.50	206.10	– 0.20	....
Smaller Cos Inc	115.00	122.50†	– 0.10	1.88
High Inc	59.03	62.87	– 0.56	6.96
Income	92.22	98.21†	– 0.77	5.52
Mngd P folio Inc	77.72	82.77	– 0.39	2.51
Mngd P folio Acc	143.10	152.70	– 0.80	5.17
North American	73.44	78.21	– 0.98	0.28
Orient	89.45	96.23	– 0.24	....
Recovery	30.39	32.37†	– 0.25	3.65
General	35.50	38.04†	– 0.28	0.11
Intl Recov	27.08	28.84†	– 0.23	0.27
European Inc	19.97	21.49	– 0.02	0.52
Conv General	16.64	17.72	– 0.09	10.74

BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474

Fellowship Tst	49.80	52.79	– 0.48	3.53
-do Acc	54.34	57.60	– 0.51	3.53
Leisure Fund 5	165.50	176.10†	– 0.90	6.32
-do Acc	358.10	381.00†	– 1.70	6.32
Inv Portfolio	92.02	53.84	– 0.49	3.13
-do Acc	56.90	58.89	– 0.52	3.13
Smaller Cos	109.20	116.20	– 0.40	3.25
-do Acc	126.00	134.10	– 0.40	3.25
High Inc P folio	46.99	48.69	– 0.07	6.76

BURRAGE UT MANAGEMENT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 480 7216

Stc Gth Fnd Inc	63.25	64.08	– 0.12	6.37

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH. 061 837 5060

Environ	104.70	111.40	– 0.70	2.29
UK Growth	112.80	120.10	– 1.00	2.90
UK Income	101.20	107.70†	– 0.80	6.04

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876

SE Asia	49.13	52.54	– 0.23	2.12
Growth	38.40	41.08	– 0.63	1.52
Income	45.40	48.56	– 0.76	5.91
Far East	36.78	39.34	– 0.14	0.79
North American	55.55	59.41	– 1.02	0.01
Global	59.49	63.63	– 0.38	1.39
European	35.79	39.67	– 0.55	2.65
Japan	87.29	93.35†	– 0.03	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	47.34	50.19†	+ 0.08	7.52
UK Opp Gwth	63.87	68.31	– 0.47	2.32

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF. Enquiries: 061 236 5685. Dealing: 061 236 5362

Capability Trust				
American Gen	86.10	91.60	– 0.75	0.24
-do Acc	91.53	97.38	– 0.80	0.24
European	35.45	38.82	– 0.19	1.50
-do Acc	57.09	60.56	– 0.20	1.50
Far East Gen	46.30	49.26	– 0.54	....
-do Acc	46.30	49.26	– 0.54	....
Glenhuntly	211.10	224.60	– 1.60	2.47
-do Acc	238.50	245.20	– 1.70	2.47
Growth	287.80	304.90	– 2.20	1.98
-do Acc	477.50	510.70	– 2.20	2.80
Income Growth	304.40	323.90	– 1.80	5.28

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
-do Acc	370.60	403.90	– 2.10	5.28
Master Portfolio	7991.0	8394.0†	– 43.00	2.86
-do Acc	8941.0	9393.0	– 48.00	2.86
Special Sits	65.68	69.88	– 0.34	2.89
-do Acc	73.98	78.71	– 0.36	2.89
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	950.00	979.40†	– 5.50	6.15
-do Acc	1052.0	1085.0	– 6.00	6.15

CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GL 071 955 5000. Dealing: 071 955 5055

American Index	139.80	149.10	– 1.80	2.13
Capital	436.50	465.80†	+ 1.80	4.03
European Index	108.70	117.00	– 0.50	2.15
Euro Gth	71.56	76.37	– 0.14	1.95
Far East Growth	64.32	68.64	– 0.26	0.97
Global Bond	50.26	21.61	– 0.04	8.54
Gold General	64.25	70.70	+ 1.22	1.79
Hong Kong	41.21	43.98	– 0.23	3.19
Income	416.70	444.70†	+ 0.30	5.68
Intl Growth	58.17	62.08	– 0.32	1.43
Japan Growth	199.70	213.10†	+ 0.60	....
Japan Smlr Cos	28.16	30.05	+ 0.06	....
Japan Index	61.77	65.92	+ 0.12	0.34
Nth American	287.30	306.60	– 0.40	1.77
Pacific Basin	32.45	34.63	– 0.28	....
Smaller Cos	79.40	84.47	+ 0.01	9.32
Equity Inc	122.81	130.65	+ 0.32	5.52
-do Acc	365.13	388.44	+ 0.96	5.52
High Yield	100.40	106.81	+ 0.26	6.76
Preference	38.98	41.47	– 0.01	9.64
PFT Europe	121.29	129.03	– 0.50	0.96
PFT Global Bnd	60.21	64.10	– 0.28	5.17
PFT Gold Com	45.14	48.02	– 0.28	....
PFT Thai	33.45	35.59	+ 0.33	0.80
PFT Hong Kong	53.02	56.40	– 0.37	1.86
PFT Japan	97.34	103.55	+ 0.48	....
PFT N Amer	97.05	104.19	– 0.71	0.34
PFT Spore Mly	67.18	71.47	– 0.11	....
PFT UK	96.67	102.84	+ 0.38	2.20
PFT Cash	84.16	84.16	+ 0.04	9.93

EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. 0345 090 526

American	78.20	83.09†	– 0.69	....
Capital	135.30	143.80	....	2.09
Commodities	20.89	22.20	– 0.18	0.00
Emnfund	32.43	34.35	– 0.26	1.16
Mngd Exempt	141.20	147.20	– 3.40	3.57
Growth Inc	189.90	201.80	+ 0.30	5.57
High Dist	136.80	145.40†	– 0.30	7.74
International	250.00	265.70	– 0.40	1.82
Intl Income	60.45	64.53†	– 0.60	6.12
Pacific	34.00	36.13†	– 0.38	1.11
Smlr Jap Co	58.28	61.92	+ 0.22	....
Tokyo	162.80	173.40	– 0.70	....
Junior Exempt	158.10	162.40	– 0.90	1.11
Japan Exempt	106.70	109.60	– 7.40	0.46
Stn Jap Exempt	494.50	508.10†	– 31.10	....

EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577 555

Oriental Op Acc	55.08	58.60†	– 0.51	1.44
Japanese Acc	51.66	54.74	– 0.03	....
UK Balncd Inc	96.51	104.80	– 0.80	3.59
-do Acc	111.30	118.40	– 0.90	3.59
UK Growth Acc	166.60	176.20	– 1.30	3.03
UK High Inc	105.50	112.20†	– 1.00	8.85
-do Acc	117.10	124.60†	– 1.10	8.85
N America Acc	72.48	77.11	– 0.85	0.13
European Acc	104.90	111.60	....	1.45
UK Pref F/I Inc	56.10	59.51	– 0.32	9.00
-do Acc	80.60	85.28	– 0.46	9.00
Intl Sp Sits Acc	40.58	43.17	– 0.21	0.87
Environmental Opp	56.82	60.45	– 0.39	2.40

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT
41 Hannigton Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261

Endurance	139.60	148.50	....	2.04

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW. 0296 431480

Pelican	96.05	101.11	+ 0.22	5.29
High Income	97.70	102.89†	+ 0.39	6.77
Tst of Inv Tns	107.07	112.70	– 0.36	3.48
Special Sits	89.36	94.06	+ 0.51	4.57
North American	71.77	75.55	– 0.69	0.99
Far Eastern	164.11	172.75	– 0.10	1.23
Intl Growth	54.57	57.44	– 0.40	2.05
European	54.57	57.44	– 0.40	2.05
Smaller Cos	56.57	59.55	+ 0.12	3.19

EQUITY & LAW
St Georges Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1HX. 0203 553231

UK Growth Acc	251.10	267.20†	– 1.70	3.66
-do Inc	196.20	198.10†	– 1.20	3.66
Higher Inc Acc	433.90	461.70†	– 2.80	5.29
-do Inc	280.80	298.70†	– 1.90	5.29
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	140.60	148.10	– 0.70	8.80
-do Inc	80.90	85.26	– 0.42	8.80
Nth America	167.80	178.60†	– 1.20	....
Far East	217.30	231.20†	– 0.40	0.34
Europe	191.10	203.30	– 1.40	....
General Inc	177.90	358.20	– 2.10	3.62
-do Acc	356.50	378.60	– 2.20	3.62
Bst Exempt	52.21	53.55†	– 0.31	3.46
Bst Fixd Int Inc	53.64	57.07	– 0.33	6.39
Bst Fixd Int Acc	84.85	88.99	– 0.04	6.39
Global Opps	54.33	57.80†	– 0.33	0.01

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181

American	153.40	162.80†	– 1.80	....
Cash Unit Tst	134.26	134.56†	+ 0.09	10.67
European Inc	91.50	97.61	– 1.15	....

FOREIGN & COLONIAL
8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YE. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9434

Am Sp Sits	87.70	93.80	– 0.71	....
UK Capital Inc	141.50	151.40	– 0.10	4.21
-do Acc	132.70	142.00	– 0.10	4.21
UK Spec Sits	54.83	58.65	+ 0.16	1.95
Income	96.61	103.30	– 0.40	7.92
International	180.40	192.70	– 1.00	1.31
US General	63.77	67.79	– 0.33	0.67
Japan General	330.00	352.00	– 0.40	....
Far East General	177.50	189.90	– 2.60	0.33
European	307.00	327.30	– 3.40	1.18
Germany	84.03	89.46	– 0.79	0.44
Int Income	54.51	57.88	– 0.43	8.77
Int Wide Spec Sits	90.31	96.59	– 0.53	0.13
Global Assets In	47.55	50.86	– 0.38	2.95
Global Assets Ac	49.12	52.54	– 0.39	2.95
Smlr Cos Div	43.83	46.88	– 0.12	5.96

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100

Am Smlr Co	294.30	308.50	– 4.30	....
-do Acc	290.50	315.10	– 4.40	....
Capital	251.00	266.90	– 1.50	3.14
-do Acc	337.50	359.00	– 2.00	3.14
Cont Smlr Cos	40.44	43.15	– 0.19	0.17
-do Acc	41.12	43.87	– 0.20	0.17
Convertible	102.60	108.70	– 0.40	7.27
-do Acc	173.30	183.60	– 0.60	7.27
European	84.49	90.19	– 0.86	0.80
-do Acc	84.30	92.65	– 0.89	0.80
Extra Income	241.50	256.80	– 1.30	5.66
-do Acc	318.40	338.60	– 1.70	5.66
Financial	61.55	65.47	– 0.53	1.03
-do Acc	65.59	69.74	– 0.56	1.03
Hamilton Fund Inc	98.77	106.00†	– 1.10	....
-do Acc	98.77	106.00†	– 1.10	....
Income Tst	150.90	160.50	– 1.10	5.21
-do Acc	199.70	212.40	– 1.60	5.21
Intl Growth	238.90	254.20	– 2.40	....
-do Acc	265.30	284.50	– 2.70	....
Japan Gen	131.20	140.40	– 0.90	....
-do Acc	132.50	141.80	– 0.90	....
Mngd P folio Inc	75.71	79.83	– 0.52	2.10
-do Acc	79.30	80.57	– 0.52	2.10
Monthly Income	122.20	129.90†	– 0.60	5.71
Recovery	202.30	220.40	– 2.70	1.05
Smaller Cos	232.80	254.90	– 3.00	0.13
Smaller Cos	37.14	39.50	– 0.12	3.55
-do Acc	41.11	43.72	– 0.13	3.55
Gilt Gth Inc	60.87	62.78	– 0.26	5.05
-do Acc	66.11	68.18	– 0.29	5.05
Gilt Inc Inc	50.76	52.33	– 0.27	8.35
-do Acc	66.78	68.86	– 0.33	8.35

FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3SH. Dealing: 0722 411411. Admin: 0722 411622

Equity Dist	272.57	289.97†	....	3.99
-do Acc	534.50	569.04†	....	3.99
Extra Gth Dist	86.05	91.54	....	0.79
-do Acc	87.71	93.31	....	0.79
Fixed Int Dist	115.92	122.62	....	7.91
-do Acc	181.86	192.36	....	7.91
Intl Gth Dist	59.60	63.40	....	0.66
-do Acc	61.05	64.95	....	0.66
Nth Amer Dist	132.55	141.01	....	1.16
-do Acc	141.26	150.28	....	1.16
Pac Basin Dist	181.83	193.44	....	0.31
-do Acc	181.83	193.44	....	0.31
Sterndistrib Dist	242.32	257.79†	....	2.70
-do Acc	280.04	297.92†	....	2.70
Stwd Int Dist	51.64	54.94†	....	9.34
-do Acc	51.64	54.94†	....	9.34
N Am Stwd Dist	65.80	70.00	....	0.30
-do Acc	69.38	73.81	....	0.30

GT UNIT MANAGERS
8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YE. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9434

Am Sp Sits	87.70	93.80	– 0.71	....
UK Capital Inc	141.50	151.40	– 0.10	4.21
-do Acc	132.70	142.00	– 0.10	4.21
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European	61.47	65.27	– 0.53	1.64
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- LORD SCARMAN CONCLUDES 31
- WILL THIS DO? 31
- LAW REPORTS 32

LAW TIMES

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1991

RM 29

A law to close the doors



Viraj Mendis, perhaps the best-known would-be political refugee, took sanctuary in a Manchester church for two years, but was deported

The asylum bill, debated by MPs today, will make entry more difficult, **Barbara Harrell-Bond** writes

The introduction of special legislation on refugees is normally a welcome indication that a government has come to realise the importance of incorporating the substance of its international legal agreements into domestic law. Such a move is usually a sign, too, that a government appreciates that refugee protection is a special issue that cannot be dealt with adequately within the context of immigration law.

Regrettably, this is not the case with the new British asylum bill, which comes before the Commons for its second reading today. Rather than upholding the international obligations to refugees laid down in the 1951 United Nations Convention, to which Britain is a party, this new legislation is intended, if not to prevent, then to make infinitely more difficult the access of refugees to asylum procedures on British shores.

The rules fail to take account of the kinds of conditions under which people flee persecution, the very conditions that the 1951 convention anticipated.

The government maintains that the bill would strengthen safeguards for genuine refugees but curb the scope for abuse by others.

In my view, instead of protecting the right of asylum, the provisions of the bill will systematically undermine refugee protection. The bill concentrates on preventing access to asylum procedures and also fails to introduce into domestic law the other rights of refugees enshrined in the 1951 convention. It marks a backward step in law and practice.

Although most asylum-seekers reaching these shores come from states notorious for their violence and human rights abuses, this asylum bill assumes their claims to protection are bogus.

The bill has been drafted in a climate of heightened xenophobia. Racism has always been an element in attitudes towards refugees.

In 1939, Norman Angell and Dorothy Buxton, the authors of *You and the Refugee: the Moral and Economics of the Problem*, argued for a more positive view of Jewish asylum-seekers by appealing to anti-black sentiments among the British public.

They suggested that the immigration of Jewish European stock would renew the "white Empire" and revive prosperity in the face of its "extinction" threatened by its declining population and the black "tide" that was "flowing back from the Empire".

If the real implications of this much debated bill and the government's underlying intentions are to be understood, the legislation must be looked at with the proposed new immigration rules and new appeals procedure rules.

A primary objective of the bill seems to be to prevent access to asylum procedures. It does this by increasing fines on airlines to £2,000 for every passenger leaving his or her country without proper documentation. It extends the fine to include passengers passing through Britain to another destination.

A large obstacle for asylum-seekers is that many of the countries that produce refugees do not observe the fundamental right to leave and return to one's country. However, even where an official exit document is not required of a departing citizen, it is highly unlikely that refugees fleeing persecution can obtain a passport from authorities in the capital city and then openly present themselves to a British embassy for a visa. Intelligence agencies in most countries keep watch on who visits Western embassies.

Moreover, refugees cannot apply for asylum from abroad. The rules state that one can apply only if "in the UK or at a port of entry". If an asylum-seeker has made false representations, including having gained admission as a visitor, if he or she has destroyed or damaged his or her passport, or bought a false passport or paid an agent to assist, the claim will now be construed as lacking credibility because the refugee has made "false representations", albeit of necessity.

Such an assumption contradicts article 31 of the convention, which provides for refugees who unlawfully enter a country by forbidding contracting states from imposing penalties "on account of their illegal entry or presence".

It is ironic that in many cases in the past an asylum-seeker's possession of legal documents was taken as evidence that the claim for refugee status was abusive. How else could one obtain an official passport in, say Sudan, without having some standing?

Article 31 does refer to refugees "coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened", and this is a grey area that has allowed some governments to refuse asylum to applicants who have crossed another country.

There are good reasons for many who seek asylum not to do so in a neighbouring country. There are too many specific cases that can be cited where, however well intended, the government cannot provide protection.

For example, many Zairois in Zambia were found by the local office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to be on a hit list and their government's agents were hunting them down. Malawian refugees in Zambia have been found murdered. Other countries have secret or not-so-secret agreements for handing asylum-seekers back to their countries of origin. A recent case concerned Burmese students in Thailand.

Even in cases of direct arrival from the country of persecution, officials have argued that a person in fear of his life would more logically have slipped over the nearest border.

More callously still, some have argued that if persecution is specific to a location, the persecuted person should have uprooted himself from that region of the country of persecution and found an alternative safe hiding place from which, presumably, the authorities would have more difficulty in running him to earth. Such thinking is hardly in accordance with the international obligations that Britain accepted when it signed the convention.

The fast-track provisions of the asylum bill, which the government says are aimed at speeding up the appeals procedures, further jeopardise the asylum-seeker who has managed to get to Britain.

The particularly iniquitous proposals are the ones that applicants should have only two days to lodge an appeal from the date on which the Home Office posts a refusal notice, and that applicants refused will not have access to Home Office statements sent to the adjudicator who will have power to decide whether or not to allow an oral hearing. Even if the number of days is extended, as has been proposed, the appeal provisions are contrary to natural justice.

The withdrawal of housing facilities for asylum-seekers with or without families will only add to the misery of new arrivals, who will be forced into sub-standard private rented accommodation, further enriching those landlords exploiting the refugee "market". Alternatively, when an outraged public deplores their being homeless, this will justify the detention of even more refugees.

The new asylum bill, if enacted, marks a sad decline in humanitarian standards in Britain.

• Dr Harrell-Bond is the director of Oxford University's refugee studies programme

WHAT THE BILL MEANS

The British asylum bill and new rules provide:

- **A new right of appeal, before removal, for applicants refused asylum**
- **A streamlined appeals procedure with strict time limits to reduce delays and ensure a quick hearing for those who are detained or whose cases are clearly unfounded**
- **Powers to cut short the stay of somebody already in the UK who claims, and is refused, asylum**
- **Powers to fingerprint asylum seekers**
- **A limit on the duty of local councils to find permanent homes for asylum applicants while their claims are considered**

When the choice is religion or work

THE Metropolitan Police and PC Nigel Brown have recently settled an industrial tribunal case that had raised difficult and important issues about employees' rights not to be required to work hours in conflict with their religious beliefs. PC Brown is an Orthodox Jew, and so did not wish to work on a Friday night or on a Saturday, the Jewish sabbath.

On settling the case, the Metropolitan Police said its policy was that so far as was reasonably practicable it would not demand that officers work shifts that clash with their religious obligations, whatever their religion.

This is not a new problem in English law. In 1977, a Mr Ahmad, a devout Muslim and a schoolteacher in London, wanted to have time off work every Friday to attend prayers at a mosque. The Inner London Education Authority declined his request and he resigned in protest. The majority of the Court of Appeal held that he had not been unfairly dismissed. Lord Justice Scarman dissented. He argued that "room has to be found for teachers and pupils of the new religions" and so "the system must be made sufficiently flexible to accommodate their beliefs and observances". He concluded that domestic law had to be construed consistently with article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of religion.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK

Thereafter, Mr Ahmad went to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The application was dismissed. The commission said that the authority was entitled to require employees to be available for work under the contract at all hours of the working day.

Unlike Mr Ahmad, PC Brown brought his claim under the Race Relations Act 1976. This prohibits less favourable treatment of employees on racial grounds, defined to cover "colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins". The act does not specifically prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion.

In 1983, in a case about a headmaster who refused to allow a pupil to attend school wearing a turban, the House of Lords accepted that Sikhs had sufficient shared characteristics of a cultural, historical and geographical nature to make them an ethnic group. They were, therefore, protected against race discrimination under the 1976 act. The Law Lords approved a similar decision of the New Zealand Court of Appeal affecting Jews.

In 1988, the Court of Appeal held that Gypsies were an ethnic group under the 1976 act. Earlier this year, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, by a majority decision, reached a different conclusion on Rastafarians. So there was no jurisdiction under the 1976 act to consider a Rastafarian's claim that he had been refused a job as a van driver because he declined to cut his hair because of his beliefs.

If a racial group is involved, the crucial issue under the Race Relations Act is whether it is *indirect* discrimination to require a person to work hours inconsistent with his beliefs. The concept of indirect discrimination covers a policy or practice that treats all employees in the same way but which has a disparate impact on one race and when the employer cannot show that the rule is reasonably necessary for business or operational reasons.

Of course, some will try to abuse religious freedoms. In 1968, the American district court rejected an argument that a criminal law defining drug offences was an unconstitutional infringement of the free exercise of religion because Chief Boo Hoo, of the Neo-American Church, had made it a religious duty to take drugs. A similarly unsympathetic response was made by the American federal court to the complaint of a prisoner, Harry Theriault, also known as Shiloh or the Bishop of Tellus, that his religious freedom as the founder of the "Church of the New Song" was infringed by the refusal of the prison authorities to supply him with steak and wine.

The move towards a multicultural society requires employers and others to accommodate those who sincerely wish to preserve their traditions but also want to earn their living in a secular society. There may, however, be contexts in which the man who prefers to comply faithfully with his religious obligations must acknowledge that this will prevent him from playing as full a part in secular affairs as he otherwise might.

Because of the risk of an indirect discrimination claim, any employer faced with this problem should adopt a code providing that employees' religious requirements will be accommodated so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so.

The 1972 amendments to the American Civil Rights Act adopted a similar approach. Employers must "reasonably accommodate" the religious observance or practice of an employee or prospective employee, so long as this can be achieved "without undue hardship" to the employer's business. What English law does not provide, and cannot provide, is an absolute guarantee that an employee must avoid making demands that conflict with the employee's religious beliefs.

• The author is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

Builders in fear

MORE noises from Europe: the UK construction industry is growing increasingly worried that the European Community's construction products directive will be applied retrospectively by the European Court at potentially enormous cost to building contractors. The retrospective application could result from delays by the government in implementing the directive and would mean that materials that are put into buildings now but fail subsequently to meet European standards would have to be replaced.

The directive became European law in June, but will not be law in the UK until the end of December. Lawyers agree that the ambiguity represents a potential catastrophe for contractors.

Court claim

MARK HUMPHRIES has contested Richard Slowe's claim (Inns and Outs, last week) to be the first solicitor to appear robed in open court in a High Court case other than libel. After a four-day hearing in chambers in January 1988 before Mr Justice Hirst, Mr Humphries appeared in open court with the judge's leave to take judgment. This was also in the Queen's Bench Division. Mr Humphries, an assistant solicitor with Linklaters & Paines, recalls: "I appeared as advocate, and not as junior. There were three leading counsel and three junior counsel appearing for other parties."

Pay protest

DEVON solicitors are thought to be the first in the UK to take industrial action over legal aid rates. The local Law Society has voted to withdraw from the 24-hour duty solicitor scheme, which services police stations, and also from the court duty solicitor schemes, early in the new year. Chris Over, the society's spokesman, says: "Criminal practitioners have for many years worked under the burden of unsocial hours, bad working conditions and decreasing pay."



New guidelines

LAWYERS in the United States have reported an increase in the number of child sex abuse allegations raised in divorce cases, although many believe the allegations may be false and introduced for tactical reasons.

Marsha Elser, the first woman president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, has called for better methods of finding the truth behind such claims in order to protect children and the subjects of false allegations.

Three-quarters of the lawyers at a recent meeting of the association said they had seen an increase in sexual abuse claims and that they believed at least half were without substance. Family lawyers have also passed new guidelines requiring them to disclose evidence of actual and potential physical or sexual child abuse, overriding confidentiality and lawyer-client privilege rules. Similar guidelines have been produced by the UK Law Society, but they permit a breach of confidentiality only in extreme circumstances.

Fair days

NEXT year's Law Fair, at the Business Design Centre, north London, on February 6 and 7, is being supported for the first time by the Institute of Legal Executives. The institute, which has more than 20,000 members, says it represents a growing area of the legal profession. "We consider ourselves the main representative body for non-admitted lawyers," a spokesman says. "We are not paralegals, who assist with legal matters. We are lawyers doing legal work."

The training lasts six years and the institute claims to be the UK's largest provider of legal education, other than the Law Society. The institute is likely to assume even more importance from 1993 when it will be the only route by which non-graduates can become solicitors. The other sponsors of the two-day fair, organised by London University's careers advisory service, are *The Times*, the Bar and the Law Society.

• Further details: Vivien Charvonia (071-383 2804)

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Lord Scarman concludes his articles on criminal justice with a plea for a review body

Section 17 must be repealed

We must have a more effective, accessible and just procedure for reviewing cases in which the possibility of miscarriage of justice has emerged or becomes exposed after trial and after appeal rights have been exhausted.

I believe that section 17 of the Criminal Appeals Act must be repealed. The section 17 procedure is essentially a reference by the Home Secretary to the Court of Appeal. Only the Home Secretary can refer a case. His power is to do so "if he thinks fit".

In practice, the Home Secretary refers only those cases in which, in his opinion, new matters of substance suggesting the possibility of a miscarriage of justice have arisen since conviction, and only after appeal rights have been exhausted. The Court of Appeal, however, reviews the whole case once it is referred. The court must treat the case as an appeal by the convicted person and has all the powers that it has in criminal cases.

The difficulties and delays of the section 17 procedure have been highlighted in the cases of the Guildford Four, the Maguires and the Birmingham Six. In all these cases a reference was ultimately made and the convictions were ultimately quashed after years of struggle. Yet it had been obvious for years that there was in every case the possibility of the serious miscarriage of justice. In the end, this led the Court of Appeal to hold the conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory.

There are some disquieting features of the section 17 procedure. First, only the Home Secretary can refer the case. Second, although his power to refer is unrestricted except for the obvious need that he must "think fit" to do what he is doing, he accepts a departmental formula under which he will act only if there is a "new" matter of substance arising since conviction. Third, when the reference is made, the case becomes an "appeal", and the appellant has to conduct an appeal governed by the Criminal Appeals Act.

The burden, financial and otherwise, of preparing such an appeal falls on an appellant, who will almost certainly have been in prison for a long time. Even if legal aid is granted, the handicaps this imposes on the so-called appellant and his legal advisers are formidable. The process may require a complex and difficult investigation more akin to work for a tribunal of inquiry and a matter of public importance than the conduct of a criminal appeal.

Conviction must not be allowed on the strength of uncorroborated evidence in a confession

The review of a case in which miscarriage of justice is alleged to have emerged after time and after unsuccessful appeal should not be an appellate process. What is alleged is a grave wrong done by the state to the complainant, which it is the duty of the state to investigate and, if it is proved, to correct. An inquiry into a matter of grave public importance, not merely an appeal, is needed.

The roots of the miscarriage of justice may lie beyond the field of fact that it would be admissible to traverse and examine in a criminal trial or appeal. Study of the Guildford Four and Maguire cases will show that questions can be raised and need answers on matters of fact that would usually be protected by professional privilege or public interest immunity, and would rarely be seen as relevant in an ordinary appeal.

I hope the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice will report in favour of the repeal of section 17 and the establishment of a court of review. I would hope that it would be a court of five with a Law Lord as its president and at least three lay members; that it would be accessible to applicants other than the Home Secretary, although he should also have a right of access; and that it would determine what cases falling within its jurisdiction it would hear.



Lord Lane, head of the Court of Appeal. Is a review court needed?

The court's task would be to search for the truth and correct injustice if found. The task should be seen to be, and conducted as, an inquiry into a matter of grave public importance.

I have done no more than sketch in outline some proposals for reform that I hope will be considered in depth by the commission. I am pleased to think, and I certainly hope, that others will make submissions along the lines I have suggested.

Of the many detailed reforms I have seen suggested, I have no doubt that two are urgent:

- Prohibiting conviction on the strength of uncorroborated confession evidence, and
- The establishment of an independent scientific service available to all parties and to the court.

On the questions of principle, the priority must be to relax the adversarial system by the introduction of judicial control and supervision in the pre-trial period, and to create in place of the Court of Appeal a court of review with the duty to enquire into cases in which there are grounds to suspect a miscarriage of justice and with powers to quash any resulting conviction if it finds miscarriage.

Inheritance works — with good will

The courts can overrule a will to the benefit of ignored dependants

The Law Society and the Charities Aid Foundation last month launched Make A Will week. Normally sober solicitors donned fancy dress and visited supermarkets and other public venues to woo potential clients. Intestacy was declaimed as a fate worse than death.

The implication of the Law Society's message was that testators' wishes are paramount. In all the attendant publicity, little or no mention was made, however, of the inroads to a testator's freedom brought about by the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975.

Since that Act, an Englishman's home and, indeed, its contents are no longer his castle to dispose of in accordance with his testamentary wishes. The courts may intervene and redistribute any assets of the testator, thus ensuring that he may not, by his will, evade his moral duty to provide for those whom he has freely encouraged to depend on him before death. Any statutory intervention will obviously reduce the shares of the testamentary beneficiaries.

The Act is complex; in essence it allows a wide variety of dependants to apply for financial provision from the deceased's estate if they can show that the testator's will — or the statutory provisions relating to intestacy where there is no will — did not make reasonable financial provision for them.

Spouses: in some cases, former spouses who have not remarried, and children may make a claim whether or not the deceased was maintaining them at time of death. Cohabitants, mistresses and even friends may also make a claim but have the additional burden of proving they were being maintained by the deceased immediately before death. Interdependent parties and employees who receive maintenance in lieu of wages are excluded from the Act's ambit.

Spouses are treated more generously under the Act than other categories of applicant. The court may grant them whatever financial provision it deems reasonable in all the circumstances of the case. Among other things, this reflects the fact that as spouses they would have had a legal right to support from the testator during his lifetime and a right to request a redistribution of his assets on divorce. All other applicants are limited to the provision of an order sufficient for their maintenance.



Will Power, star of a Law Society brochure

Once an application has been accepted, the court decides if and how it should exercise its discretion in making an award. The court must consider many factors, including the financial resources and needs of the applicants; conduct of the applicants, including any contribution to the welfare of the testator's family, and any physical or mental disability an applicant might have.

Critics of the Inheritance Act have suggested that its provisions are paternalistic and threaten not only testamentary freedom but also the institution of the family. They have argued that although the deceased may have been prepared to support an individual during his lifetime, he might not be willing for that burden to continue after his death to the detriment of those family members named as beneficiaries under his will. There is also the anomaly that an applicant may have a legal claim to maintenance on the death of a testator, which would not have been legally enforceable during his lifetime.

The task for the court is clearly exceedingly difficult. It may have to make up its mind on what is fair and right to do, in the context of a particular man whose life history is vague in regard to the possible competing interests of, for instance, a divorced wife, a widow, a mistress and children whose existences may have been unknown to each other before the reading of the will.

Despite the criticisms, there are grounds for statutory interference in testamentary dispositions. Those encouraged to be dependent on the testator before death have almost certainly come to rely on that support.

In many cases, dependants, were it not for the Act, would find themselves in grave financial hardship on the death of the testator and would be forced to rely on state support. Many daughters and cohabitants have been the devoted slaves of aging parents or partners, thus permitting them to remain in the comfort of their homes until death. The efforts of such people should not go unrewarded; maintenance is, at least, minimal compensation for their endeavours.

The Act deserves to be brought to the attention of potential applicants and of those solicitors who have responded to the Law Society's drive to recruit new testators. Both, for different reasons, need to be fully aware of the limitations of making a will.

MARY WELSTEAD

Dr Welstead is a lecturer in law at the University of Buckingham

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ROUGE

Anomaly in caravan site notice

Stoke-on-Trent City Council v Frost and Another

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment November 15]

Although a minimum period of four weeks notice was required to determine the right of gypsies to reside on a site provided by a district council, no notice at all was required on a site provided by a county council.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal brought by Norman Frost and Violet Frost against the decision of Mr Recorder G. C. Styler at Stoke-on-Trent County Court on July 12, 1990 finding as a preliminary issue in proceedings to determine his residential contract, that *Linehouses Caravan Site, Stoke-on-Trent* was not a protected site within section 1 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968. On August 7, Judge Gibbs, stayed the proceedings for 28 days such stay to remain in force until any appeal had been disposed of.

Mr Christopher D. Elliott for the Frosts; Mr Nicholas Huskinson for the council.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that it was argued on behalf of the Frosts that there was some absurdity in the situation where, if a district council provided a caravan site for gypsies the site was protected but if a county council provided the site it came within paragraph 11A of the Caravan Sites and Control of Developments Act 1960, as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, and the site was unprotected.

It was submitted that the unfortunate caravan occupier might not know which local authority owned the site and was thus unable to know with certainty whether there was protection.

Moreover, it was argued that the position after the Caravan Sites Act 1968 came into force was that a county council which provided a site, not being a local authority as defined in the 1960 Act, was required to obtain a site licence from the district council. That situation existed until 1980 when section 176 removed that requirement by inserting section 11A.

It was finally argued that if Parliament had intended sites occupied and provided by a county council under the 1968 Act to be excluded from the protection of section 2 of the 1968 Act by virtue of the addition in section 176 of the 1980 Act it would have said so.

His Lordship said that so far as the last point was concerned, the argument was more compelling in the reverse. It was clear from the wording of the statutory provisions which had existed since 1980 that a gypsy caravan site owned and occupied by a county council was not protected within section 1(2) of the 1968 Act and accordingly no notice was required.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that he was perturbed at the procedural course and the time taken in the case. It would have been better if Judge Gibbs, instead of granting a stay pending appeal, had merely granted a short stay and so an appliction for continuance of the stay would have had to have been made in the Court of Appeal shortly after the lodging of the appeal.

Whoever heard that application for continuance could have refused it if that was plainly right or directed that the appeal be expedited.

It was unfortunate that the Frosts should have achieved a stay of nearly 15 months from Judge Gibbs' order when the only issue was whether they should have had four weeks notice.

Solicitors: Bird & Bird for Beswick Moon & Co, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr Stewart W. Titchener, Stoke-on-Trent.

Suing in state of domicile

Gascoine and Another v Pyrah and Another

The exceptions to the requirement in article 2 of the Convention on Jurisdiction and Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968, incorporated into English law by the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, that persons domiciled in a contracting state should, whatever their nationality, be sued in the courts of that state, had to be construed in accordance with decisions of the European Court of Justice so as not to extend those exceptions beyond their proper limits, and not to derogate unduly from the article 2 requirement.

Mr Richard Southwell, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held on November 13 in a reserved judgment given in open court after a hearing in chambers in which he allowed the second defendant's summons to set aside an order of October 9, 1990, and to strike out the second defendant's name from the plaintiffs' writ and statement of claim.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiffs sought to claim in the High Court damages against the second defendant, a vet resident in Germany, for breach of duty of care and contract in his examination of a horse in France which they sought to acquire.

They were not entitled to rely on the Convention because: (i) the place of performance of the principal contractual obligation was Germany, (ii) the event causing damage occurred in Germany and the damage was incurred in France, and (iii) there was no real or substantial risk of irreconcilable judgments if the claim against the second defendant was tried in the German courts and the claim against the first defendant, domiciled in England, in the English courts.

Injury award a matrimonial asset

Wagstaff v Wagstaff

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss

[Reasons November 19]

An award of damages for serious personal injuries to a husband was an asset that was to be taken into account by the court in determining a wife's application for financial relief under section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, as substituted by section 3 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984.

The Court of Appeal so held in giving their reasons for allowing on November 4 an appeal by the wife, Joyce Wagstaff, from Judge Elgan Edwards' order in Macclesfield County Court in August 1990, whereby he *reversed a registrar's decision to* require the husband, Stephen Wagstaff, to make to her a lump sum payment of £32,000. The Court of Appeal reinstated the registrar's order.

Mr David T. Eccles for the wife; Mr M. P. Sylvester for the husband.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the appeal raised a difficult question as to the way in which a large sum of damages awarded to the husband for serious injuries suffered by him should be treated in the application for financial relief made by the wife after a decree of judicial separation.

In 1981 the husband suffered injuries rendering him paraplegic. In 1983 he and his wife parted, the wife retaining the home, a rented council house. In 1985 she bought the house for £10,000, it then being valued at £24,500. In 1988 the husband received damages of £418,000.

The registrar granted the wife's application for ancillary relief and, having taken into account the award of damages but allowing a large discount for the fact that the husband's capital was derived from damages for personal injuries, made a lump sum order of £32,000 on the basis of a clean break.

The wife sold the council house and invested her capital in a new house. She had a modest lifestyle and no immediate need for a large capital sum.

The husband had bought a house that was adapted to his special needs. He had £70,000 on deposit and had invested in a *health club that made a loss. His* income was derived from state benefits and interest.

The judge had held that the disability of the husband was the paramount consideration and that the wife, being in no immediate need, should not be entitled to any lump sum payment.

In *Daubney v Daubney* ([1976] Fam 267) the Court of Appeal held that an award of damages was not to be left out of account in considering section 25. But Lord Justice Scarman commented (at p277) that an order should not "deprive the spouse of all the benefit by way of compensation for loss of amenity and pain and suffering intended to be conveyed by the award of damages".

But that should not be taken as saying that no part of damages awarded under the head of pain and suffering should be charged with the other spouse.

The reasons for the availability of the capital in the hands of one spouse, together with the size of the award, were relevant factors in all the circumstances of section 25. But the capital sum was not sacrosanct nor any part of it secured against the application of the other spouse.

Each case fell to be considered on its own facts. The concern raised by Lord Justice Scarman was most unlikely to arise other than in most exceptional circumstances.

The husband had severe and permanent injury and had received large damages. The judge had rightly treated his disability and his needs as very important. But he was to be criticised for treating the disability as the paramount consideration.

The marriage had lasted 12 years and the wife now had to support herself with no future recourse to the husband. She lacked security and there was a disparity in the parties' relative positions even allowing for the husband's disabilities. The judge seriously underestimated the wife's position and his decision was plainly wrong.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that compensation was a financial asset which, like money earned by one spouse by working excessively long hours or in disagreeable circumstances, was, subject to human selfishness, available to the whole family before the breakdown of the marriage, and like any other asset was to be taken into account when the court came to exercise its power under section 25.

Solicitors: *O. Collier Little & Kilbeg, Wilmslow; Linder Myers, Manchester.*

Clause not restricted

New Hampshire Insurance Company v Strabag Bau Aktiengesellschaft

"Jurisdiction in matters relating to insurance" in the Brussels Convention 1968, which had the force of UK law by virtue of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, meant what it said and was not restricted to insurance for domestic or private purposes.

Thus, under article 11 of the Brussels Convention the plaintiffs had to bring proceedings where the defendants were domiciled.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith) so held in a reserved judgment on November 14 in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiffs, New Hampshire Insurance Company (suing on behalf of themselves and their underwriters under a collective policy) against the decision of Mr Justice Potter on February 9, 1990 when he ordered that the writs be set aside and delared that the court had no jurisdiction over the defendant who was domiciled in Germany.

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It can certainly backfire when seeking a new position. One of our candidates, an impressive commercial lawyer with a large firm in Leeds, asked us to mention to the senior partner of the firm he was seeing that the partner had been one of his tutors at university. He felt sure this would assist his application. The senior partner did, of course, remember him: he had made his mark as one of the heaviest beer-drinking students in his year.

Contrary to general expectations, it usually doesn't help to mention that a candidate is known to a member of the firm. We have greater success with those candidates who are not known. They get the full benefit of the 'halo' effect. (The interviewer is keen to fill the job. If a candidate has some of the qualities required, the interviewer – ever hopeful – is quick to see all the other qualities he is looking for.) *Michael Chambers*

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هكذا من الأصل

Test the water business for a bigger splash

Widget Finn finds that since privatisation, water companies offer good opportunities and, as they expand, are eager to hire the right people

Water companies are a rare species — unlike other sectors of the British economy they are making big investments in their business, and are recruiting strongly to meet the needs of expansion.

Anglian Water has a £4 billion, ten-year capital investment programme. Geographically, it is the biggest water company, its area stretching from the Humber to the Thames, from Norfolk to Northampton. East Anglia has a rapidly expanding population, and the water company predicts that the number of customers there, 5.5 million, will increase greatly by the year 2000. Anglian Water is one of the few water companies that is expanding because of area growth rather than the need to improve the existing infrastructure for the same customer base.

In the past, water authorities depended heavily on the services of sub-contractors for engineering projects. Most of the new water companies, faced with a large and varied capital programme, have decided to build on the core of their engineering team to cope with the workload. This will enable them to set standards and produce the quality of service that their new status requires.

Expansion plans mean that more engineers are needed. Chris Linnett, the personnel manager, explains: "We were faced with the challenge of recruiting 100 engineers during this financial year and a slightly smaller number in 1992-3. The time involved in a recruitment programme of this size would have prevented our engineering and personnel people from getting on with their daily work."

The solution was to engage an outside recruitment consultancy, Macmillan Davies, based in Hertford. A three-phase recruitment campaign has been started, intially with advertisements in national and local newspapers and moving on to using trade media. This, predicts Graham Dunning, the director of projects at Macmillan Davies, will produce a smaller but better focused response.

Anglian Water plans to fill a wide range of technical and professional posts, including assistant and senior engineers on the design service side, and clerks of the works and construction managers. Large-scale redundancies in the building and construction industry have swelled the number of experienced professionals in the job market. As Mr Dunning explains, however, the industry has specialised needs.

"We need to attract civil engineers with experience of working in water-related organisations," he says, "although there are projects involving structural steel and reinforced concrete that demand a range of skills already deployed in other industries."

Wessex Water, covering Avon, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, has 2.2 million customers, a number that increases at holiday time. With a £140 million budget this year to update the infrastructure, the company is handling its own recruitment programme.

Bobbie Stainthorp, the company's personnel manager, says: "Wessex Water has been recruiting consistently over the past 18 months, and we have put a lot of effort into graduate recruitment. The calibre of candidates has improved enormously, but there is still a great shortage in the electronics and electrical engineering areas."

TIM BISHOP



Mike Charles, an electrical engineering graduate, joined Wessex Water and is working on a sewage project

Water companies are competing in the jobs market with consulting engineering practices, which often offer higher salaries. But, says Ms Stainthorp, the water companies can give engineers a greater breadth of managerial experience and the opportunity to achieve charter status.

These were the factors that attracted Mike Charles to Wessex Water rather than a job in industry. Mr Charles, who is 23, graduated from Leicester University with a degree in electrical engineering. He joined the water company as a design engineer and is working on modifications and installations to a sewage works project. He is half-way through his training to become chartered with the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

"Typically," says Mr Charles, "an engineering graduate stays in one position with little responsibility or has a whistle-stop tour of a number of departments during the two-year training period."

Mr Charles is getting wide working experience, including a chance to exercise some legal skills. He has to draft the contract for external companies involved in the project.

'The changing work offers exciting openings; instead of using the methods and equipment used in the past, we are pioneering some new approaches'

The stability of an industry that provides an essential service to the community makes a pleasant change for anybody who has has had first-hand experience of the problems which are affecting other sectors.

Mike Shortnose joined Anglian Water as a senior engineer six months ago after ten years in manufacturing. He was attracted by the security of the organisation, and the opportunities for promotion and movement inside the industry. He has found that in an expanding company such as Anglian Water, there is a strong emphasis on training and ongoing development through to the senior levels.

Mr Charles confirms that for new graduates or established engineers, this is a good time to go into the water industry. The advent of privatisation and the large amounts of money being spent on expansion means the industry is at a challenging stage.

"A changing environment offers exciting opportunities in engineering," says Mr Charles. "Instead of using methods and equipment used in the past, we are pioneering new approaches."

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HABIT ROUGE

Jones glides in for a happy landing on track


Jones: took a wage cut

David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, meets Malcolm Jones, the businessman who was the surprise choice as the first chief executive appointed by the newly formed British Athletic Federation

When the parachutes were opened by those who jumped from their jobs during the Westland helicopter controversy of the 1980s, Malcolm Jones fell to earth a long way from where Michael Heseltine and Leon Brittan landed. The political pair are still in their old line of business, but Jones is not in his. Four years on from his Westland days, Jones is the pilot of an exploratory flight as British athletics's first chief executive. Paying for his ticket, too, earning less now than he did then.

While, in the heat of Westland, Heseltine resigned as minister of defence and Brittan as trade and industry secretary, Jones did the same as Westland's group business director responsible for sales, marketing, product support and commercial activities, though he subsequently stayed for another two years. When it was time to consider his future, and the Amateur Athletic Association advertised for a financial controller, all his sporting yesterdays came flooding back.

"I captained the school at rugby, football and cricket," Jones, a former pupil at Luton Grammar, said. Sport was where he wanted to be, "doing something in which I could play a major part".

If he was not an athletics fan then, he claims to be now. Yet his promotion this month to become chief executive of the new British Athletic Federation (BAF) was greeted by cries of "Malcolm Who?" A captain of industry, or an athlete-businessman at least, was needed, it was being said.

But Jones had been busy on profits, not profile. He has played a senior role in taking British athletics from near bankruptcy in 1987 to having reserves of £2 million now. Few in the sport were familiar with his background. Many senior officers knew only that he had been "something to do with Westland".

They perceived him as an accountant, although he had left that pigeon hole 11 years ago. "In 1980, Westland were facing a situation similar to most defence contractors — we had to look at ways of earning money other than relying on the British government, so I was very much a party to producing a 10-year plan."

A false start on work to provide helicopters to India played a part in landing Westland in financial crisis. Takeovers became the talk of the day, leading to Heseltine leaving the cabinet.

Before Jones left Westland, he had gained a breadth of experience. "One of the things I had to do was introduce computer technology on the shop floor, and we ended up with something like 2,000 terminals in four years. That was not done by not being able to relate to the people in the factory." The athletics shop floor can rest easy: he values the voluntary sector and wants to encourage it. And the professionals? Can he handle the dominant personalities? "I can but try . . . I hope I can . . . I am sure I can."

Jones's role in the BAF, as he sees it, is to bring "leadership in implementing the policy decided by council and management board." With evolution, not revolution.

Among his priorities will be to seek sources of income not reliant on television. "We are concerned that our primary source of income is our television contract. One of the things I have started is a travel and accommodation agency. We spend £1 million on travel and the value of that business was being washed through other hands."

He intends to address ethics — "as the sport becomes more professional it is vital we hold on to our basic ethic of decency", and he will be looking to strengthen Britain's international representation in decision-making — "one thing I have been concerned about". He wants programmes "to prepare our top-level athletes for life after athletics".

Aged 59, Jones had 10 years with Vauxhall Motors and five with the British Aircraft Company. Out of commerce and into sport, he has had to adjust to a philosophy that profit "is not the bottom line — we wish to attract money into athletics so that we can *spend* on athletics".

Nor is Jones's personal wealth his own bottom line, as it had been "a difficult decision" to take less than half the salary he had commanded at Westland.

TENNIS

Victorious Seles ends the year as she began it

FROM BARRY WOOD IN NEW YORK

MONICA Seles ended 1991 as she started it, by winning a big tournament. Victory over Martina Navratilova by 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 brought her the Virginia Slims championships and concluded a remarkable year in which she won three legs of the Grand Slam, rose to No. 1 in the world and appeared in the finals of all 16 tournaments that she played.

Her success has earned her the nickname "Moneyka" Seles, for she has broken all records for tournament winnings in a single year. Prior to last week, she had accumulated $1,657,758, and added another $250,000, plus a bonus of $550,000, by beating Navratilova.

Yet even that total of $2,457,758 is dwarfed by a long list of lucrative endorsements that include Fila clothing, Canon Cameras, and No Excuse jeans.

The last brand name is perhaps ironic, remembering the reasons offered for her non-appearances at Wimbledon and the Federation Cup, and the controversy she caused by playing unofficial exhibitions in defiance of the rules laid down by her player association.

At the time of her Australian Open victory in January, however, there was no sign of the controversy that would surround her. She was a breath of fresh air, bright and bubbly, leading in a new wave of leading players.

She is, in truth, not a popular champion. Her eccentric behaviour and inclination to chase the bright lights has brought her little respect either from her fellow players or the public.

Still aged just 17, she has often been left to make her own decisions, with her father insisting that it is her life and she therefore has to make her own choices. Let loose in a candy store, it takes a very strong character indeed not to indulge to excess.

"Looking back at the year, I wish some things never happened," she admitted, "but I learned a lot and am going to try and do better next year." Navratilova, who will play a full schedule of tournaments for at least another 12 months, says that it is too early to judge Seles.

"I don't know why the crowd doesn't like her better," she said. "It is hard to judge so early, but she needs to do some things to endear herself to others. She walks to a different drummer.

"Monica is not your run-of-the-mill human being, but I guess that's why she is No. 1. Nobody that gets there is your average person."

While she looks forward to playing for another five years or so, Seles has nevertheless made no secret of the fact that she has her sights set firmly on a film career. Indeed, she has been taking acting lessons, is searching for a house in Los Angeles, and has already been offered parts to play.

Yet, even now, the glamour appears to be fading. On Sunday night, at a glittering party held to celebrate the champions of tennis, Seles looked tired and drawn, and mumbled just a few embarrassing words in a hugely disappointing acceptance speech.

Although she spent most of the evening dancing, she shunned the spotlight and tried to blend into the crowd. There was no joy, no smile, no teenage giggles, no boy to dance with.

Growing up, and making mistakes under the full glare of worldwide attention, is a crushing burden to bear.

Smith to lead Britain

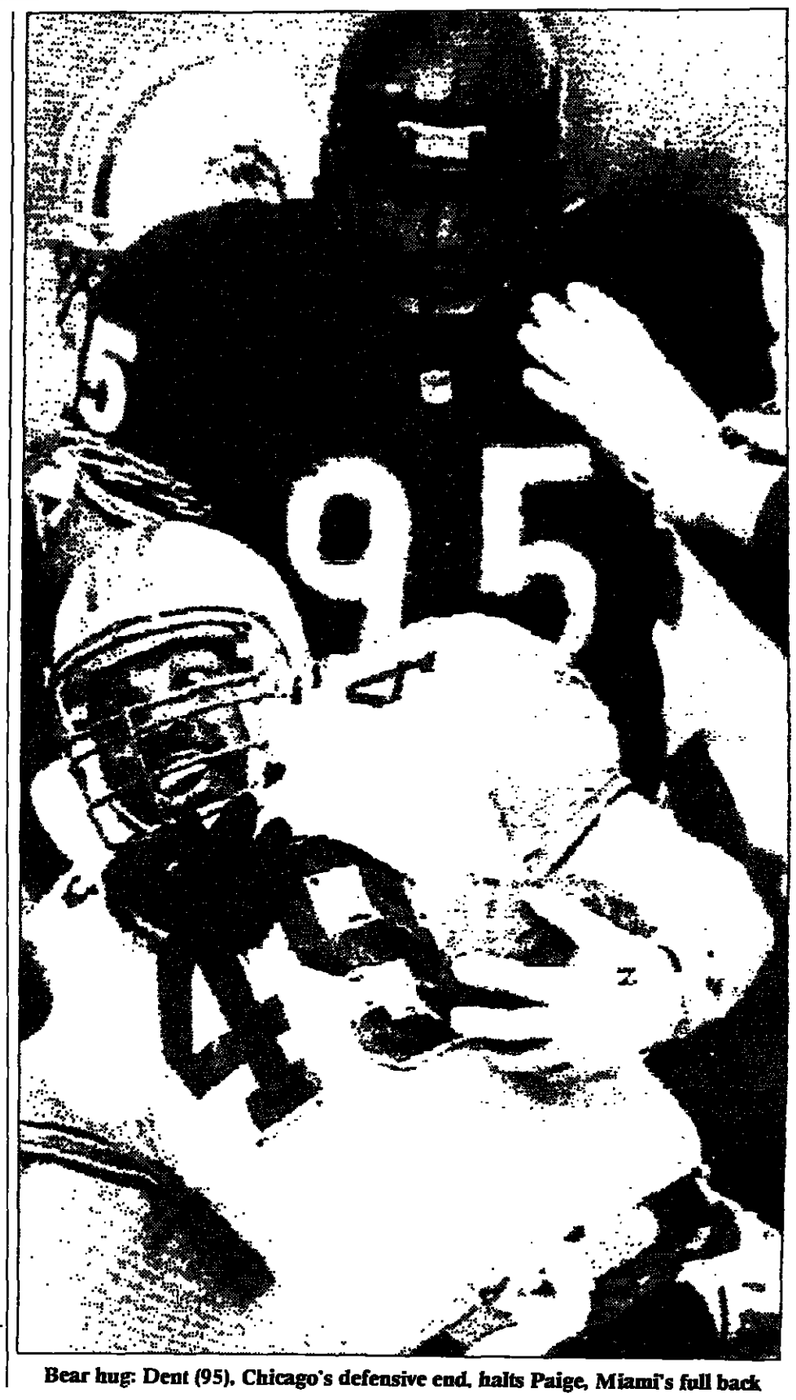
SARAH Loosemore and Sam Smith are to lead the British team in the Maureen Connolly Trophy match with the United States at Cardiff from December 6 to 8.

Britain has won this under-21 competition, which consists of nine singles and two doubles, twice in the past four years.

But Loosemore, ranked No. 76 in the world last year but now rated 171st, and Smith, who is ranked No. 120, will need to be in top form if Britain is to beat a particularly strong American team.

The leading American selection is Amy Frazier, who was seeded in the Wimbledon singles earlier this year and is now ranked 28th.

TEAMS: Great Britain: Sarah Loosemore, Sam Smith, Sarah Bentley, Ginny Humphreys-Davies, Colette Hall. United States: Amy Frazier, Audra Keller, Shannon McCarthy, Lisa Albano, Jessica Emmons.


Bear hug: Dent (95), Chicago's defensive end, halts Paige, Miami's full back

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Beuerlein helps Cowboys shoot down Redskins

BY ROBERT KIRLEY

ALL six National Football League divisional leaders were victims of upsets on Sunday.

The **Washington Redskins**, the only club to have secured a place in the playoffs, had won 11 games by an average difference of three touchdowns, and at home to the **Dallas Cowboys** were attempting to become the fourth club in league history to start a season with 12 wins. The Cowboys limited the Redskins to one touchdown and 199 yards until the last minute. Steve Beuerlein, Dallas's replacement quarterback, produced ten points.

Dan Marino's 31-yard toss to Mark Clayton in snow set up Pete Stoyanovich's 27-yard field goal in overtime that gave the **Miami Dolphins** a 16-13 win at the **Chicago Bears**. The **New England Patriots** had four kicks blocked but used four interceptions to surprise the **Buffalo Bills** 16-13.

Gary Anderson kicked four field goals as the **Pittsburgh Steelers** beat the **Houston Oilers** 26-14. John L. Williams gained 109 yards on 17 carries to lift the **Seattle Seahawks** to a 13-10 win over the **Denver Broncos**. Norm Johnson booted a 50-yard field goal in overtime as the **Atlanta Falcons** beat the **New Orleans Saints** 23-20.

The **New York Giants**'s quarterback, Jeff Hostetler, fractured a bone in his lower back in the 21-14 win over the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**. Jim McMahon threw two touchdown passes as **Philadelphia Eagles** beat the **Phoenix Cardinals** 34-14.

☐ Raghib "Rocket" Ismail scored on an 87-yard kick-off return in the fourth quarter and Matt Dunigan threw two touchdown passes as the **Toronto Argonauts** won the Grey Cup — the Canadian championship — 36-21 against the **Calgary Stampeders** in Winnipeg on Sunday.

FIXTURES: Week 14, Thursday (Thanksgiving Day): Chicago at Detroit; Pittsburgh at Dallas. Sunday: Cleveland at Indianapolis; Green Bay at Atlanta; Kansas City at Seattle; New England at Denver; New Orleans at San Francisco; NY Giants at Cincinnati; NY Jets at Buffalo; Tampa Bay at Miami; Washington at LA Rams; LA Raiders at San Diego. Monday: Philadelphia at Houston

RESULTS AND TABLES

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Dallas Cowboys 24, Washington Redskins 21; Los Angeles Raiders 38, Cincinnati Bengals 14; Cleveland Browns 20, Kansas City Chiefs 15; Green Bay Packers 14, Indianapolis Colts 10; Detroit Lions 34, Minnesota Vikings 14; New England Patriots 16, Buffalo Bills 13; Pittsburgh Steelers 28, Houston Oilers 14; New York Giants 21, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 14; Miami Dolphins 16, Chicago Bears 13 (OT); New York Jets 24, San Diego Chargers 9, Philadelphia Eagles 34, Phoenix Cardinals 14, Seattle Seahawks 13; Denver Broncos 10, Atlanta Falcons 23, New Orleans Saints 20 (OT).

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East division	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo	10	2	0	355	254
New York	7	5	0	255	209
Miami	6	6	0	223	261
New England	4	8	0	172	236
Indianapolis	1	11	0	116	275
Central division					
Houston	9	3	0	312	194
Cleveland	5	7	0	231	247
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	242	273
Cincinnati	1	11	0	184	350
Western division					
Denver	8	4	0	228	192
LA Raiders	8	4	0	241	206
Kansas City	7	5	0	242	170
Seattle	6	6	0	212	183
San Diego	3	9	0	198	266

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern division	W	L	T	PF	PA
*Washington	11	1	0	382	153
Dallas	7	5	0	243	246
Philadelphia	7	5	0	216	177
New York	7	5	0	202	197
Phoenix	4	8	0	160	273
Central division					
Chicago Bears	9	3	0	225	186
Detroit Lions	8	4	0	251	238
Minnesota	6	7	0	248	241
Green Bay	3	9	0	185	223
Tampa Bay	2	10	0	144	276
Western division					
New Orleans Saints	9	3	0	249	147
Atlanta Falcons	7	5	0	242	249
San Francisco	5	6	0	218	155
LA Rams	3	8	0	181	256

* Play-off berth secured

☐ Does not include last night's game: San Francisco at LA Rams.

POOLS FORECAST

THE first division looks the best place for draws this week with three of the eight coupon matches likely to end all square. Southampton, who are showing signs of improvement, can end Coventry City's sequence of 18 games without a home score draw.

Two teams in a trough — Notts County and Queen's Park Rangers — are in direct opposition and neither seems capable of gaining more than a point. It is difficult, too, to separate Sheffield United and Luton Town, who are also involved in the relegation dogfight. United are due for a score draw, having gone 15 matches without one.

The alphabet factor could operate in the third-division fixtures between Bury and Bournemouth and Hartlepool United and Huddersfield Town. When sides beginning with the same letter and of roughly equal ability play each other, a draw is often the outcome.

The wretched away form of Plymouth Argyle has kept them near the foot of the second division but they should not go away empty-handed from Brighton, whose home record is nothing to shout about.

Away backers should be able to rely on Nottingham Forest beating Chelsea and Southend United prevailing at Sunderland. Norwich City, rapidly climbing the table, can continue their purple patch by winning at Anfield, where an injury-hit and goal-shy Liverpool are proving strangely vulnerable.

Saturday November 30 unless stated

FIRST DIVISION
2 Chelsea v Notts F
X Coventry v Southampton
2 Liverpool v Norwich
1 Man City v Wimbledon
X Notts Co v QPR
1 Oldham v A Villa
X Sheff Utd v Luton
1 West Ham v Sheff Wed

Not on coupons: Arsenal v Tottenham (Sunday); Crystal Palace v Manchester United; Leeds v Everton

SECOND DIVISION
2 Barnsley v Newcastle
X Blackburn v Middlesbro
X Brighton v Plymouth
2 Bristol C v Charlton
1 Cambridge v Oxford
1 Derby v Leicester
1 Ipswich v Tranmere
1 Millwall v Bristol R
1 Portsmouth v Wolves
2 Port Vale v Watford
2 Sunderland v Southend
1 Swindon v Grimsby

THIRD DIVISION
1 Birmingham v Bradford
1 Brentford v Swansea
X Bury v Bournemouth
2 Darlington v Fulham
1 Exeter v Chester
X Hartlepool v Huddersfield
2 Hull v Preston
1 Peterboro v Torquay
1 Reading v Stockport
2 Shrewsbury v Bolton
1 West Brom v Stoke
2 Wigan v Leyton O

FOURTH DIVISION
1 Blackpool v Halifax
2 Cardiff v Rotherham
1 Carlisle v Maidstone
1 Crewe v Hereford
2 Doncaster v Lincoln
1 Gillingham v Aldershot
1 Mansfield v Walsall
X Northampton v Burnley
2 Scarboro v Rochdale
X Scunthorpe v York

Not on coupons: Barnet v Chesterfield

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
1 Altrincham v Merthyr
2 Bath v Kidderminster
2 Farnborough v Kettering
1 Macclesfield v Wilton
X Northwich v Colchester
X Redbridge v Gateshead (at Gateshead)
1 Welling v Barrow
1 Wycombe v Cheltenham
1 Yeovil v Stafford

HFS LOANS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
X Stalybridge v Leek

SCOTTISH PREMIER
1 Aberdeen v Falkirk
1 Celtic v Dunfermline
1 Hearts v Airdrie
X Motherwell v Rangers
2 St Johnst'n v Hibernian
1 St Mirren v Dundee U

SCOTTISH FIRST
Not on coupons: Ayr v Montrose, Dundee v Forfar; Hamilton v Kilmarnock, Partick v Meadowbank; Raith v Clydebank, Stirling v Morton

SCOTTISH SECOND
Not on coupons: Alloa v East Fife; Arbroath v Clyde; Berwick v East Stirling; Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park; Dumbarton v Brechin; Stenhousemuir v Queen of the South; Stranraer v Albion

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams). Coventry, Notts County, Sheffield United, Brighton, Bury, Hartlepool, Northampton, Scunthorpe, Northwich, Redbridge, Stalybridge, Motherwell.
BEST DRAWS: Sheffield United, Brighton, Bury, Hartlepool, Stalybridge.
AWAYS: Nottingham Forest, Norwich, Newcastle, Southend, Rotherham.
HOMES: Cambridge, Millwall, Portsmouth, Peterborough, Blackpool, Carlisle, Crewe, Gillingham, Macclesfield, Wycombe, Yeovil, Celtic.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Portsmouth, Peterborough, Gillingham, Wycombe, Celtic. Aways: Nottingham Forest, Southend, Rochdale. Draws: Brighton, Bury, Hartlepool.

☐ Vince Wright

RUGBY LEAGUE

Salford will be stiff hurdle for Wigan

BY KEITH MACKLIN

WIGAN will not relish the prospect of visiting Salford on Saturday in the quarter-finals of the Regal Trophy. The champions and Challenge Cup holders have looked out of sorts in the past few weeks and were beaten heavily in a recent championship match at The Willows in which their young loose forward, Phil Clarke, was sent off.

Salford, who struggled at the start of the season, have found an amazing upsurge of confidence under their coach, Kevin Tamati, and have won seven of their last eight matches, including victory at Wakefield in Sunday's second-round games.

They fear no opposition at the moment and a particular bonus for them has been the form of the international wing, Adrian Hadley, who is having his best season since joining the club from Welsh rugby union.


Hadley: in fine form

However, on the credit side for Wigan, is the fact that they expect to clear a few names from their long injury list next weekend.

The New Zealand goal-kicker, Botica, the full back, Hampson and the Australian, Gene Miles, should return, and checks will also be made on the fitness of the front-row forwards, Skerrett and Lucas.

Leeds, resigned to being without Ellery Hanley for between two and three months — although his astonishing recuperative powers indicate the shorter term — have got the home tie they deserve on Sunday when they will entertain the winners of the tie between **Castleford** and **Doncaster**.

Widnes have a home game against those renowned giantkillers **Featherstone Rovers**, who put up the best display in the second round by running up 64 points against **Halifax**, although it was their third cup game in five days and they had a man sent off.

St Helens also have home advantage. But whereas a few weeks ago **Bradford Northern** would have seemed a soft touch, there are signs that Peter Fox is pulling the Odsal team round, and it will not be as easy for St Helens as the championship game earlier in the season.

DRAW: Salford v Wigan; Leeds v Castleford or Doncaster; Widnes v Featherstone Rovers; St Helens v Bradford Northern. The Salford-Wigan tie will be played on Saturday (3.0). The other games on Sunday (3.0).

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Record goes in local derby

BY MICHAEL STEVENSON

THE game is certainly in a healthy state in Bedford, for Bedford School are still unbeaten and Bedford Modern have lost only to their neighbours, by 6-13 after being six points up early in the game. An injury to their hooker, Jamie Matthews, meant that they played the rest of the match under a severe handicap.

Bedford Modern have won their other 14 matches, scoring 405 points against 90. Mark Webster, at full back, Ben Pryor, a wing who has scored 11 tries, Chris Taffs, the scrum half, and the flankers, Ben Steventon and Tim Lennox, have all excelled.

Bradford GS, who had seemed invincible on the northern circuit, finally lost their unbeaten record to **QEGS Wakefield**, winners by 9-7. Wakefield toured Spain at half-term and since their return have drawn with **Blackrock College, Dublin**, and beaten **Nottingham HS**.

The commendably imaginative Roses Match for state schools was won by **Yorkshire** 21-0. Their tries were scored by James Henry, James Naylor, Dan Wade and Ian Spence. Yorkshire also beat **Cumbria** by 32-7. Kern Yates, a flanker who has represented England at 16-group level, was outstanding in both matches.

King's, Taunton, still unbeaten after surviving a 6-6 draw in terrible conditions against **Downside**, have wins to record since half-term, against **Taunton RFC Colts** (20-9), **Christ College, Brecon** (12-0) and **Millfield** (11-4). Matt Ramus, who leads the side from flank forward, has been well supported by Nick Tempest (prop), Jamie Webster (No. 8), Jason Cann (wing), Matt Hiles (centre) and Matt Coley (full back).

Llandovery, having defeated **Belmont Abbey** away by 29-10, swept past **Rydal** by 44-4 to record their ninth win from ten matches and so qualify for the *Daily Express* Cup. To date they have scored 345 points and conceded 105.

Old Swinford Hospital are following last winter's successes with another good season. They have 13 wins and a draw from 17 games.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
First round
Windsor and Eton v Woking

First round replays
Crewe v Carlisle
Farnborough v Halesowen (7.45)
Gillingham v Brentford (7.45)
Hereford v Atherstone
Rotherham v Scunthorpe
Telford v Stoke (7.45)

Barclays League
Second division
Wolverhampton v Grimsby

Third division
Stockport v Shrewsbury

Zenith Data Systems Cup
Northern area
Middlesbrough v Tranmere
Notts County v Sheffield Wed (7.45)

Southern area
Chelsea v Ipswich
Plymouth v Southampton (7.45)
QPR v Crystal Palace (7.45)
West Ham v Brighton (7.45)

GM Vauxhall Conference
Barrow v Macclesfield
Redbridge Forest v Bath
Stafford v Boston

B and Q Scottish League
First division
Forfar v Ayr

FA VASE: Second round replays: Atherton LR v Ossett Town; Sudbury v Haverhill; Thatcham v Malden Vale; Hastings v Langney Sports.
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Kingstonian; Bishop's Stortford v Aylesbury, Enfield v Wivenhoe; Hayes v Sutton United; Wokingham v Hendon. First division: Maidenhead v Molesey. Second division: Banstead v Hungerford; Billericay v Southwick; Egham v Ruislip Manor; Saffron Walden v Berkhamsted. Third division: Chertsey v Camberley; Hampton v Collier Row.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Knowsley v Horwich. President's Cup: Second round: Marine v Morecambe; Warrington v Leek (at Leek Town). Premier division: Burton v Shepshed; Matlock v Frickley. First division: Colwyn Bay v Rhyl; Newtown v Caernarfon.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bradford City v Coventry; Everton v Bolton (7.0); Manchester United v Sunderland (7.0); Newcastle v Barnsley (7.0). Second division: Preston v Derby (7.0).
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Charlton v Oxford (7.0); Watford v Fulham. Postponed: Reading v Portsmouth.
IRISH LEAGUE: Cawoods County Antrim Shield: Ballyclare Comrades v Cliftonville; Brantwood v Bangor; Carrick v Glentoran; Comber Rec v Ards; Distillery v Portadown; Larne v Glenavon; Linfield v Ballymena; Newry v Crusaders.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: March v Thetford; Newmarket v Wroxham; Wisbech v Histon.
CLIFTON STOCKBROKERS LEAGUE: Cardiff v Swansea; Cheltenham v Plymouth; Exeter v Hereford.

OTHER SPORT
BOXING: British welterweight title Del Bryan (Nottingham) v Mickey Hughes (St Pancras) (at Bethnal Green).
MOTOR RALLYING: Lombard RAC Rally.
SNOOKER: UK Championships (Preston).

BOXING

Bryan is aiming for repeat

MICKEY Hughes will rely on bitter experience to spur him to victory in the British welterweight title contest at York Hall, Bethnal Green tonight. The Croydon boxer challenges Delroy Bryan nearly four years after losing a points decision to the Nottingham southpaw.

"It will be a different story this time," Hughes said. "The last time we fought, I took the bout at a week's notice. I hadn't had any sparring, let alone against a southpaw."

Hughes has had plenty of time to prepare mentally for his first bout since losing a Commonwealth challenge against Donovan Boucher, of Canada, in June.

The contest should have been the chief support to the ill-fated Chris Eubank-Michael Watson WBO super-middleweight title clash at Tottenham in September, but Hughes withdrew with back trouble. He was out for a month.

"Bryan is awkward but not a big banger," Hughes said. "I'll be out to get on top in the first six rounds and stop him with my heavier punching."

It will be Bryan's first defence since taking the title from Kirkland Laing in January, a win which provided proof that the champion had matured belatedly.

Hughes will never stop trying to land the winning punch, but Bryan is clever and resourceful enough to keep his title.

Sabin Du Loir to take control

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

VISITORS to Huntingdon have a rare treat in store today now that two former Cheltenham Gold Cup winners, Desert Orchid and Norton's Coin, have stood their ground for the Peterborough Chase, along with that other hardy annual **Sabin Du Loir**.

This is likely to be Desert Orchid's last race before attempting to win the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day a fifth time.

As everything has been geared to that momentous occasion, it is not unreasonable to conclude that "Dessie" might well now need another race to bring him to concert pitch, just as he did last season when he finished only fourth in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown, having already been beaten six lengths by Sabin Du Loir at Devon.

Interestingly, Sabin Du Loir has got the better of Desert Orchid in three of their last four encounters, the exception being when he fell in last year's King George when in the lead.

More recently, another six-length victory over Desert Orchid at Wincanton was a prelude to beating that smart two-miler Waterloo Boy, also by six lengths on his return to Devon.

In that sort of form, Sabin Du Loir will be hard to beat again today, and he is my selection.

Last season, Norton's Coin gained his only win at Cheltenham in April when he beat Waterloo Boy by a head when in receipt of 3lb. That line through Waterloo Boy now gives Sabin Du Loir the edge.

Saffron Lord, the only other runner, finished tailed off in this race 12 months ago when he was ridden for Josh Gifford by Richard Rowe.

Now he is being trained by his former jockey, who remains hopeful that he can nurse him back to his redoubtable best. Today, though, Saffron Lord is certainly being dropped in at the deep end again on what is his seasonal debut.

The task of landing my nap is entrusted to Jamie Osborne astride the Oliver Sherwood-trained **Far Over Struy** in the Britannia Novices' Chase.

The way that this son of Ardross was staying on at the end of two miles at Wolverhampton, when he was beaten a length by the subsequent Kempton winner Norman Conqueror, hinted strongly that today's longer trip should be right up his street, as indeed one would expect from his breeding.

At Devon, former champion hurdler **Beech Road** endeavours to win his first race over fences when he contests the Woolea Retail Of Street & Wells Novices' Chase.

Considering that he was taking on horses of the calibre of Sabin Du Loir and Waterloo Boy when he finished third on the same track three weeks ago, he was far from disgraced on his comeback.



Osborne: fine chance on Far Over Struy

Following that most encouraging first run for his new trainer Tim Thomson Jones at Worcester, I also like the look of **Pamber Priory's** chance of winning the Woolea Retail Of Street & Wells Handicap Chase on the west country track.

Arabian Sultan (1.35) and **Derisbay** (2.35) also smack of yet two more likely winners for the in-form pMartin Pipe.

At Stratford, the champion trainer can also score with **Deepky** (1.00) and **Sea Island** (2.00). There was much to like about the way that Sea Island performed on her seasonal debut at Cheltenham, where she was runner-up to Tipping Tim.

So she is taken to win the Stourton Intermediate Handicap Chase even though she has to give 25lb to Gladtogetit, who won over today's course and distance on her seasonal debut and at Ascot afterwards.

Finally, the sharp nature of this Warwickshire course looks tailor-made to bring the best out of the Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained **Blacksburg** as he is launched on his chasing career in the Celinet Novices' Chase.

Barnbrook Again's quick return hinges on tests

BY MICHAEL SEELY

BARNBROOK Again is a surprise entry for the £25,000 grade two feature at Sandown on Saturday, the Tingle Creek Handicap Chase.

The nine entries also includes Katabatic, Waterloo Boy, Young Snugfit, last year's winner, and Moment Of Truth. The last three are all likely runners, but Katabatic, the reigning champion two-miler, is more likely to take on Carvill's Hill at Chepstow.

Last Saturday, Barnbrook Again, twice champion two-miler, suffered a recurrence of his heart problem when pulled up behind Cab On Target at Newbury.

However, David Elsworth said yesterday: "What happened must have been a malfunction of his heart first time out. The same thing happened when he collapsed two years ago at Kempton. Then, only ten days later, he broke the track record when winning the first race at Newbury."

Barnbrook Again's participation depends on a result of a blood test taken after the 10-year-old cantered at Whitsbury yesterday morning. "He's quite all right again. I've just been studying a graph of his heart and it's perfect," said the trainer.

Britain's outstanding dual purpose trainer is eagerly looking forward to Desert Orchid renewing his rivalry with Sabin Du Loir at Huntingdon this afternoon. "Desert Orchid should win," he went on. "I know he's got six lengths to make up, but he should make more improvement than his rival."

As far as the future is concerned, the most significant events will take place on Saturday at Chepstow.

Maximum interest will be focussed on the Welsh track, where Carvill's Hill and Katabatic also have Celtic Shot, Twin Oaks and Sparkling Flame as potential opponents in the £25,000 Rehearsal Chase.

Sparkling Flame has an alternative engagement against Rolling Ball, Martin Pipe's Sun Alliance Chase winner, in the Arlington Qualifier.

In anticipation of a satisfactory comeback, the punters yesterday forced the price of Carvill's Hill from 12-1 to 8-1 favouritism for the Gold Cup with Corals, who reported support for Remittance Man from 20-1 to 14-1.

As far as Sparkling Flame is concerned, the main thing is for him to be all right after he's worked tomorrow morning," said Nicky Henderson. "He will probably run in the Rehearsal Chase unless the ground becomes very soft."

At the five-day declaration stage for Saturday's most valuable race, the competitive £35,000 William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown, the sponsors make Egypt Mill Prince and Montpelier Lad joint favourites at 10-1.

Shu Fly, the six-length conqueror of Egypt Mill Prince, who was admittedly having his first run of the season at Cheltenham, is a tempting 10-1 with both the sponsors and Ladbrokes to repeat Aonoch's 1988 victory for Sally Oliver.

"Jacqui Oliver, the winning rider on that occasion, is out of action with an injured knee. So Steve Smith Eccles will renew his Cheltenham partnership with Shu Fly. "He's no Aonoch, but he's a progressive type and we are hoping for the best," said Henry Oliver, the trainer's husband.

Passed Pawn keeps Pipe wagon rolling

AS THE champion trainer Martin Pipe prepared a triple assault on Chepstow's big weekend prize, Passed Pawn kept his winning machine ticking over at Wolverhampton yesterday.

Passed Pawn pulled up stiff when collecting at Leicester on Friday, but bounced back to dominate the Aladdin Claiming Hurdle. Making all, the 13-8 on favourite swept home seven lengths clear of Play The Blues.

Pipe, who claimed his winner back for 11,552 guineas, said: "The horse was all right when he returned from Leicester, but we only decided to run him for sure this morning. It's great to have the big wins like Chatam, but the small ones still count."

Oliver Sherwood is striking form, and landed a near 22-1 double with Springaleak and Major Effort.

HUNTINGDON

MANDARIN
12.45 Free Education.
1.15 FAR OVER STRUY (nap).
1.45 Gipsy Dawn.
2.15 Sabin Du Loir.
2.45 Regardless.
3.15 Pashto.

THUNDERER
12.45 Aberfoyle.
1.15 Far Over Struy.
1.45 Edelweiss.
2.15 Sabin Du Loir.
2.45 Flying Freehold.
3.15 Question Of Degree.

RICHARD EVANS
1.45 EDELWEISS (nap).

SIS

GOING: GOOD

12.45 HOUGHTON SELLING HURDLE (£1,803: 2m 100yd) (20 runners)

1		0	CARRIGANORE 62 (J Wade) J Wade 4-11-7	K Jones	—
2	05043-0		FREE EDUCATION 19 (B) (Mrs J Ward) P Hedger 4-11-7	D O'Sullivan (3)	● 99
3	55FF-3		PACIFIC GEM 27 (Mrs S McGarvie) R Curtis 4-11-7	D Morris	94
4		40	SAVILLE WAY 7 (M Hawkett) W Musson 4-11-7	S Keightley	—
5		6	SOCKEM 31 (Mrs G Dunlop) C Williams 4-11-7	A Maguire (3)	—
6		P	WOLFGANG 48 (Mrs J Downing) T Rollinson 4-11-7	Mr R Downing	—
7	U00-RP		TWICE LOVELY 4 (Agrhem House Stud) C Allen 4-11-2	J Ryan (3)	—
8		01	ABERFOYLE 8 (D,S) (Roalco Ltd) M Tompkins 3-11-0	S Smith Eccles	91
9			BUSH BIRD (J Hardy) C Smith 3-10-9	Mr M Ranger	—
10		30	CARIBBEAN PRINCE 12 (B) (T Maycock) M McCourt 3-10-9	G McCourt	78
11			DONS-BEST-BOY 85F (J Pearce) J Pearce 3-10-9	P McEntee (7)	—
12		60	HAVEYOUALLDONE 12 (BF) (D Churston) S Dow 3-10-9	H Davies	84
13		00	KING'S RESIDENCE 12 (B) (Risten Whins Racing Ltd) B Rothwell 3-10-9	R Supple	84
14		300	LOON 6 (J Joseph) J Webb 3-10-9	R Dunwoody	94
15		0352	MINDY 8 (B) (Mrs M Cooke) N Callaghan 3-10-9	A Carroll	—
16			TOWER BRIDGE 27F (A Edwards) J Scargill 3-10-9	I Lawrence	—
17		0	DAISY GREY 21 (B) (A Reid) A Reid 3-10-4	F Murtagh (7)	91
18		2	GRANNY'S GIRL 33 (Mrs A Harris) J Harris 3-10-4	W Marston (7)	88
19		50	MINARET 21 (G Pritchard-Gordon) G Pritchard-Gordon 3-10-4	B Doran	—
20			NEEDWOOD POPPY 19F (Needwood Racing Ltd) B Morgan 3-10-4		

BETTING: 9-4 Aberfoyle, 5-2 Mindy, 9-2 Pacific Gem, 5-1 Haveyoualldone, 10-1 Granny's Girl, 20-1 Free Education. 25-1 others

1990: SUPERETTA 10-1 M Ahern (7-2) J Jenkins 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FREE EDUCATION 2¾l 3rd of 16 to Sweet Glow in a claiming hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f, good to firm) on final start last season. PACIFIC GEM 9½l 3rd of 5 to Norstock in a selling handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good). ABERFOYLE beat MINDY (5lb better off) 1½l in a 15-runner selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). HAVEYOUALLDONE 4¼l 7th of 14 to Casenne in a selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 100yd, good), with CARIBBEAN PRINCE (same terms) 4l 8th. MINDY 6l 5th of 22 to Kagram Queen in a claiming hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with MINARET 11th, DAISY GREY 12th in same race, and KING'S RESIDENCE 15th. GRANNY'S GIRL 5l 2nd of 8 to Riveran in a selling novice hurdle at Southwell (AW, 2m).
Selection: PACIFIC GEM

1.15 BRITANNIA NOVICES CHASE (£2,247: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1	10FP-1P		SOUTHERN SUPREME 13 (F,G) (Southern Caravan Group) J Gifford 8-11-11	E Murphy	92
2	P/F-PP		CLONMACOGUE 8 (The I W Racing Club) B Stevens 10-11-5	R Strange	—
3	233PPU-		COUNTRY CAP 227 (S) (R Townsend) R Townend 10-11-5	Mr D Townsend	94
4	32251-2		FAR OVER STRUY 15 (F) (I Low) O Sherwood 6-11-5	J Osborne	● 99
5	5F325-4		HARD STUFF 15 (G) (Hard Stuff Partnership) D Nicholson 7-11-5	R Dunwoody	96
6		0/0-	LOTHARIO 382 (B Byford) B Byford 6-11-5	S Keightley	—
7		/100/0	LOTHIAN SULTAN 18 (S) (Mrs W Gunnery) J Wharton 7-11-5	S J O'Neill	—
8		000/P-	MASTER CORNET 426 (R Bethell) B Rothwell 5-11-5	M Lynch	—
9	PR/FFF-0		PRY'S-JOY 10 (G Hubbard) F Murphy 7-11-5	H Davies	—
10	15514/		SOCIAL CLIMBER 649 (G,S) (L Kimber) T Forster 7-11-5	A Maguire (3)	—
11	066/P		TANNINGTON 10 (G Hubbard) F Murphy 8-11-5	G McCourt	—
12	44F-		ROUGH QUEST 201 (A Wates) T Etherington 5-11-4	R Supple	—
13			VERY VERY ORDINARY (J Upson) J Upson 5-11-4		

BETTING: 7-4 Far Over Struy, 9-4 Southern Supreme, 4-1 Hard Stuff, 6-1 Social Climber, 8-1 Very Very Ordinary, 20-1 Lothario, 25-1 others.

1990: EARL SOHAM 7-11-4 D Murphy (12-1) F Murphy 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOUTHERN SUPREME beat Kambalrity 2½l in a 7-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. COUNTRY CAP 13¼l 3rd of 9 to Gingerland in novice chase, here (3m, good), when last completing in January. FAR OVER STRUY 1l 2nd of 7 to Norman Conqueror in a novice chase at Wolverhampton (2m, good to firm), with HARD STUFF (same terms) 30½l 4th. SOCIAL CLIMBER showed fair form over timber two seasons ago, including when beating Ask Moss 5l in a 21-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 5f, good)
Selection: FAR OVER STRUY (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
M Pipe	6	12	50.0
T Etherington	4	13	30.8
F Murphy	8	32	25.0
J Upson	5	21	23.8
J Wharton	4	18	22.2
N Henderson	8	38	21.1

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
P Scudamore	6	24	25.0
J Osborne	7	31	22.6
J Ryan	4	22	18.2
E Murphy	3	17	17.6
G McCourt	8	38	15.8
R Dunwoody	19	121	15.7

☐ Ladbrokes embark on a four-day experiment today when racing will be beamed live into the firm's betting shops from Newmarket, South Africa. The programme, which starts at 11am, will consist of four races and will be shown each day this week, except Friday, with Greyville and Turfontein the other meetings covered.

1.45 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,121: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1			ANAMASI (Mrs C Massey) J McConnochie 6-10-12	J Osborne	—
2		6	DARK DEEP DAWN 54 (J Upson) John R Upson 4-10-12	R Supple	—
3		0	DREAMSIDE 17 (B Rothwell) B Rothwell 4-10-12	M Lynch	—
4	611-30		EDELWEISS 13 (BF,F) (J Ennis) M Pipe 4-10-12	P Scudamore	81
5			FOOLISH SOPRANO (Lord Grimston of Westbury) N Henderson 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	—
6	154-22		GIPSY DAWN 31 (BF,G) (Furyo Jeans Ltd) C Barwell 5-10-12	S Smith Eccles	● 99
7			HARMONY ROYAL (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 5-10-12	H Davies	—
8	0-0		HATTON'S FESTIVAL 24 (Bee Gee Brushes) J Pearce 4-10-12	P McEntee (7)	—
9		2-	LEADALONG 409 (Mrs J Downing) T Rollingson 7-10-12	Mr R Downing	—
10		010	REVTON 10 (C,F) (W Corten) P Dalton 4-10-12	J Supple	—
11		00-P	STRONG ATTRACTION 13 (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-10-12	R Bellamy (3)	—

BETTING: 13-8 Edelweiss, 9-4 Gipsy Dawn, 5-1 Foolish Soprano, Anamasi, 10-1 Harmony Royal, 12-1 others

1990: DUO DROM 5-10-12 M Lynch (9-4) Mrs D Hame 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARK DEEP DAWN 21½l 6th of 15 to Modify in a National Hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 100yd, firm) EDELWEISS 17l 7th of 13 to Bolbin Patrick in a novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm) Better effort previously when 3½l 3rd of 9 to Camsbridge Queen in a novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm).
GIPSY DAWN ¾l 2nd of 22 to Miners Luck in a novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good) LEADALONG 5l 2nd of 4 to Pitchcott Hill in a National Hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, firm) REVTON beat Urban Cowboy 4l in an 8-runner National Hunt flat race, here (2m 100yd, good to firm), on penultimate start. Has since disappointed in similar race at Warwick (2m good)
Selection: GIPSY DAWN

2.15 PETERBOROUGH CHASE (Grade II: £15,475: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	41413-2		DESERT ORCHID 33 (D,F,G,S) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 12-11-9	R Dunwoody	● 99
2	RF212-2		NORTON'S COIN 24 (D,F,G,S) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 10-11-9	G McCourt	88
3	1U14-11		SABIN DU LOIR 21 (D,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 12-11-9	P Scudamore	87
4	2/54RP-		SAFFRON LORD 276 (D,F,G,S) (J Holmes) R Rowe 9-11-1	J Osborne	75

BETTING: 4-5 Sabin Du Loir, 7-4 Desert Orchid, 11-2 Nortons Coin, 25-1 Saffron Lord

1990: PEGWELL BAY 9-11-1 J Railton (11-10 fav) T Forster 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DESERT ORCHID 15l 3rd of 14 to Garrison Savannah in the grade I Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m 2f, good) in March, when NORTON'S COIN fell when in contention at the 17th. Previously, beat Nick The Brief ¾l in 4-runner grade II handicap chase at Sandown (3m 118yd, good)
NORTON'S COIN 15l 2nd of 4 to Katabatic in a handicap chase at Chepstow (2m, good to soft). Previously, beat Waterloo Boy a head in a 4-runner grade II handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm) in April
SABIN DU LOIR beat Waterloo Boy 6l in a 6-runner grade II chase at Devon (2m 1f, good). Previously, beat DESERT ORCHID (same terms) 6l in 7-runner grade II chase Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm) SAFFRON LORD beat Four Thr 2l in the 5-runner H & T Walker Gold Cup at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm) in November 1988. Disappointing last season
Selection: SABIN DU LOIR

2.45 CARPET CITY/CNFM 103 HANDICAP CHASE (£2,322: 3m) (8 runners)

1	14044-P		ON THE TWIST 10 (CD,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 9-11-13	A Maguire (3)	93
2	6P2F0-P		CUMREW 3 (B,CD,G,S) (N Harris) T Forster 11-10-8	H Davies	94
3	0865111-		FLYING FREEHOLD 301 (D,G,S) (J Upson) J Upson 6-10-8	R Supple	86
4	P/P2325-		REGARDLESS 239 (G,S) (Mrs S Greatbanks) D Nicholson 9-10-4	R Dunwoody	● 99
5	151304		BOLD IN COMBAT 5 (B,CD,F,G) (J Browne Construction Co Ltd) T Casey 8-10-4	S Smith Eccles	90
6	0/P1F-U1		MR BOSTON 7 (F,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 6-10-0 (7ex)	P McEntee (7)	—
7	42U-332		CLARES OWN 18 (F) (J Wade) J Wade 7-10-0	K Jones	89
8	4/444/U		TUMBLE JACK 11 (D,S) (B Byford) B Byford 9-10-0	S Keightley	88

Long handicap: Mr Boston 9-12, Clares Own 9-7, Tumble Jack 9-6

BETTING: 5-2 Flying Freehold, 4-1 Clares Own, Mr Boston, 8-1 On The Twist, Bold In Combat, 12-1 others.

1990: FARMLEA BOY 10-11-10 R Guest (11-2) G Balding 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ON THE TWIST 18l 4th of 7 to Gold Options in a handicap chase at Liverpool (3m 1f, soft) in April. FLYING FREEHOLD beat Jimstro 1½l in a 13-runner novice chase at Leicester (3m, good). Previously, beat Leavenworth 1½l in a 12-runner novice chase at Chepstow (3m, soft)
REGARDLESS 2½l 2nd of 12 to Up And Coming in a handicap chase at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, good) in March. BOLD IN COMBAT 16½l 4th of 7 to Jimster in an amateur riders' handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good to firm). MR BOSTON beat Firm Pnce 2½l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 6f, good to firm). CLARES OWN 1½l 2nd of 7 to Nautical Joke in a handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m, good to firm) TUMBLE JACK 11½l 4th of 11 to Air Broker in a handicap chase, over course and distance (good), in February.
Selection: REGARDLESS

3.15 VIVIAN KENNEDY MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,924: 2m 100yd) (9 runners)

1	131/333		QUESTION OF DEGREE 13 (D,BF,G,S) (P Grundy) N Tinkler 5-11-10	G McCourt	● 99
2	6110-41		LUSTY LAD 31 (CD,F) (G Nye) M Haynes 6-11-5	H Davies	95
3		10/	SHIMSHEK 1196F (D,S) (K Al-Saud) D Elsworth 7-11-2	P Holley	—
4		100-	PASHTO 238 (D,S) (R Tooth) N Henderson 4-11-1	R Dunwoody	96
5	21126-5		CLOS DU BOIS 45 (D,G) (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-11	P Scudamore	96
6	53F01-		ALOSAILI 216 (D,G) (J Marshall) B Stevens 4-10-5	M Stevens (7)	94
7	32/P-0P0		SPRING PLAY 3 (D,G) (T King) J Jenkins 7-10-0	M Ahern	90
8	224-33S		THIN RED LINE 17F (V,D,S) (American Technical Publishers Ltd) J Jenkins 7-10-0	I Lawrence	97
9	F0013/0		WHISKEY BLUES 11 (D,G) (T Suter) M Stoner 6-10-0		

Long handicap: Spring Play 9-5, Thin Red Line 9-3, Whiskey Blues 8-12

BETTING: 6-4 Pashto, 3-1 Question Of Degree, 6-1 Lusty Lad, 8-1 Shamshek, 10-1 Alosaili, 12-1 others

1990: BADRAKHANI 4-10-12 J White (11-2) N Henderson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

QUESTION OF DEGREE 9½l 3rd of 7 to Tnmlough in a handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm) Previously, 4l 3rd of 8 to Royal Derbi in a handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm).
LUSTY LAD beat Elegant Stranger 1l in a 5-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) SHIMSHEK 42l 15th of 26 to Knbensis in the Trumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, soft) in March 1988 Previously, beat Northern Barry ½l in a 21-runner maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). PASHTO 20l 7th of 14 to Montpelier Lad in the grade II Glenfivet Hurdle at Liverpool (2m, good) Previously, beat Muse 3l in a 10-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to soft) in March, with ALOSAILI a well-beaten 8th
CLOS DU BOIS 20½l 5th of 6 to Snuggle in a handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m 2f, AW) ALOSAILI beat Souter's Hill 3l in a 16-runner novice hurdle at Perth (2m, good)
Selection: QUESTION OF DEGREE

DEVON & EXETER

MANDARIN
1.05 Jumbeau. 1.35 Arabian Sultan. 2.05 Pamber Priory. 2.35 Derisbay. 3.05 Beech Road. 3.35 Crystal Bear.

THUNDERER
1.05 Charterforhardware. 1.35 See More Indians. 2.05 Woodgate. 2.35 Derisbay. 3.05 Beech Road. 3.35 Magnus Pym.

Richard Evans: 2.05 Woodgate.

SIS

GOING: GOOD

1.05 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,066: 2m 1f) (18 runners)

1			CANFORD MAGNA C Brooks 4-11-0	G Bradley	—
2			CANTORIS FRATER P Hobbs 4-11-0	Peter Hobbs	—
3	3-42		CHARTERFORHARDWARE 12 M Pipe 5-11-0	J Frost	—
4		4	DUBLIN FLYER 13 T Forster 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	—
5			EBONY GALE Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0	M Pitman	—
6		43-	GLEN CHERRY 250 T Forster 5-11-0	J Railton	—
7			HAPPY HORSE D Barons 4-11-0	R Greene (5)	—
8		3	JUMBEAU 13 J Gifford 5-11-0	D Murphy	—
9		4	MELDON 7 T Hallett 4-11-0	A Webb	—
10		4	MINE'S AN ACE 24 D Barons 4-11-0	N Hawke	—
11		0-P	MOUNTSHANNON 74 C Tnetine 5-11-0	D Bridgwater (3)	—
12		0-	MR GIPPER 199 M Brown 4-11-0	R Guest	—
13		P2-3	POACHER'S DELIGHT 21 Mrs S Williams 5-11-0	D Richmond (7)	—
14		1-	ROAD TO RICHES 238 (S) T Thomson Jones 5-11-0	P Barrard (3)	—
15		4-	ROCKY PARK 276 G Balding 5-11-0	S Hodgson	—
16		53-	HATHERLEY 215 S Christian 5-10-9	Mr M McGonagle (7)	—
17		00-	METAFAN 222 M Francis 6-10-9	Mr J Durham	—
18		0	SAINTE MARTINE 10 R Holder 4-10-9	N Mann	—

2-1 Charterforhardware, 3-1 Jumbeau, 6-1 Dublin Flyer, 7-1 Mine's An Ace, Road To Riches, 8-1 Ebony Gale, Rocky Park, 12-1 others

1.35 WOOLEA RETAIL OF STREET & WELLS NOVICES HURDLE (£1,616: 2m 1f) (10)

1	1121		ARABIAN SULTAN 26 (CD,F,G) M Pipe 11-8	D Richmond (7)	—
2		00	DEVON PRIDE 24 D Barons 10-12	N Hawke	—
3		6	DEXTRA DOVE 20 P Hobbs 10-12	S Earle	—
4		0	NORTHERN GUEST 12 D Barons 10-12	R Greene (5)	—
5		P	PRINCE BOLLINGER 12 (B) C Popham 10-12	S Burrough	—
6			ROBBIE'S BOY M Brown 10-12	R Guest	—
7		11-5	SEE MORE INDIANS 20 (G) P Nicholls 10-12	N Mann	—
8		3	SNITTON GATE 31 C Meade 10-12	G Bradley	—
9		6-	ARTISTIC PEACE 287 N Kennick 10-7	M Hoad	—
10		0	GLITTERBIRD 13 K Bishop 10-7	M A Fitzgerald (7)	—

4-11 Arabian Sultan, 100-30 See More Indians, 8-1 Dextra Dove, 12-1 Snitton Gate, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 97 winners from 236 runners, 41.1%; J Gifford, 7 from 21, 33.3%; D Elsworth, 8 from 29, 27.6%; C Wildman, 4 from 16, 25.0%, S Christian, 3 from 12, 25.0%; G Balding, 22 from 96, 22.9%.

JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 5 winners from 14 rides, 35.7%, J Frost, 23 from 124, 18.5%; Peter Hobbs, 17 from 99, 17.2%, R Guest, 12 from 71, 16.9%; S Burrough, 6 from 38, 15.8%; R Greene, 4 from 34, 11.8%

2.05 WOOLEA RETAIL OF STREET & WELLS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,556: 3m 1f) (6)

1	22U-		WOODGATE 238 (CD,BF,G,S) T Forster 10-11-10	C Llewellyn	—
2	P0-U		OKEETEE 6 (F,G,S) C Brooks 8-11-5	G Bradley	—
3	5-2F		COMBERMERE 26 (CD,BF,G,S) R Frost 7-10-13	J Frost	—
4	-3U0		POLAR GLEN 17 (D,F) R Hodges 10-10-9	A Tory	—
5	22-1		PAMBER PRIORY 13 (G,S) T Thomson Jones 8-10-4	D Murphy	—
6	P/PP		UPSTANDING 8 (F) N Davs 9-10-0	P Richards	—

7-4 Combermere, 9-4 Okeetee, 11-4 Pamber Priory, 9-2 Woodgate, 20-1 Polar Glen, 33-1 Upstanding.

2.35 WOOLEA RETAIL OF STREET & WELLS JUVENILE SELLING HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,497: 2m 1f) (10)

1		121	DERISBAY 21 (B,CD,F,G) M Pipe 11-3	D Richmond (7)	—
2		5	COLWAY PRINCE 106 A Jones 10-12	P Barrard (3)	—
3		00	FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT 17 J White 10-12	A Webb	—
4		0	KREISCHIM 28 M Madgwick 10-12	Peter Hobbs	—
5		022	KRONPRINZ 12 C Tnetine 10-12	D Bridgwater (3)	—
6		0P	YASHCADAN 7 W G Turner 10-12	S Earle	—
7		2030	FOOLISH MASQUERADE 12 R Hodges 10-7	A Tory	—
8		5	JADIDH 7 Mrs J Thorne 10-7	N Dawe	—
9		40	MARTIYA 12 G Balding 10-7	R Guest	—
10		BP04	NEMOPHILIA 8 (B) J Peacock 10-7	W Humphreys	—

8-11 Derisbay, 4-1 Kronprinz, 6-1 Jadidh, 8-1 Martiya, 12-1 Foreign Assignment, 14-1 Nemophila, 20-1 others.

3.05 WOOLEA RETAIL OF STREET & WELLS NOVICES CHASE (£3,829: 2m 1f) (8)

1	4101		MIDFIELDER 8 (CD,F,S) P Hobbs 5-11-8	Peter Hobbs	—
2	-123		MONTALINO 17 (F,G) J Gifford 8-11-7	D Murphy	—
3	00-3		BEECH ROAD 21 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding 9-11-2	R Guest	—
4	-FP4		PIGEON ISLAND 8 G Charles-Jones 9-11-2	N Coleman	—
5	11/3		RICMAR 12 (B,F,G,S) J Tapin 8-11-2	Miss L Blackford (7)	—
6	62-2		RIYADH LIGHTS 113 (BF,F) M Usher 6-11-2	M Bowlby	—
7	300-		VICEROY JESTER 35F (F,S) R Holder 6-11-2	W Irvine	—
8	3-34		CAMDEN BELLE 19 (CD,F,G) M Muggeridge 9-10 11		

8-13 Beech Road, 11-4 Midfielder, 5-1 Montalino, 12-1 Camden Belle, Viceroy Jester, 20-1 others

3.35 TOTE GIRLS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,940: 2m 1f) (12)

1		304-	MAJOR INQUIRY 214F (D,BF,F,G) D Elsworth 5-12-0	G Bradley	—
2		108-	RE-RELEASE 235 (D,S) M Pipe 6-11-13	D Richmond (7)	—
3		43P-	DEVIL'S VALLEY 235 (B,S) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-11	M Pitman	—
4		2P0-	SOUND OF ISLAY 255 (G) T Forster 6-11-1	C Llewellyn	—
5		31-2	CRYSTAL BEAR 32 (CD,S) T Forster 6-11-1	J Railton	—
6		51P-	ALREEF 36F (S) T Thomson Jones 5-10-13	P Barrard (3)	—
7		/1-F	THATCHER ROCK 20 (D,F) P Nicholls 6-10-13	D Tegg	—
8		-255	REDGRAVE GIRL 10 (CD,F,G) K Bishop 9-10-9	R Greene (5)	—
9		4U-8	MAGNUS PYM 13 (S) G Balding 6-10-2	R Guest	—
10		-344	DOC'S COAT 10 (CD,F,S) C Wildman 6-10-0	D Gallagher	—
11		UU-1	BELTANE THE SMITH 21 (CD,F,G,S) N Dunn 11-10-0	S Earle	—
12		00-P	COLD MARBLE 13 D R Tucker 6-10-0	N Mann	—

5-2 Crystal Bear, 11-2 Redgrave Girl, 6-1 Re-Release, 7-1 Thatcher Rock, 8-1 Devil's Valley, Magnus Pym, 10-1 others

STRATFORD

MANDARIN
1.00 Deepky.
1.30 Wide Boy.
2.00 Sea Island.
2.30 Blacksburg.
3.00 Sharpgun.
3.30 General Shot.

THUNDERER
1.00 Jaeger.
1.30 Murphy.
2.00 ALL AFLOAT (nap).
2.30 Vicario Di Bray.
3.00 Spitfire Jubilee.
3.30 Sally's Gem.

RICHARD EVANS
2.00 All Afloat.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 SHARPGUN.

SIS

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

1.00 BRAILES NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,537: 2m) (8 runners)

1	P0-504		BAND OF HOPE 15 (N Brown) W Clay 11-2	J Driscoll (7)	86
2		0	JAEGER 8 (D Steele) J Jenkins 11-0	B Powell	—
3		0	ENCHANTING HABIT 8 (M Baker) C Horgan 10-11	R Beggan	—
4	00-2P3		DEEPKY 38 (R Brechart) M Pipe 10-9	M Foster (5)	● 99
5	06F24-		FIRST EXHIBITION 271 (V Guy) Mrs A Knight 10-9	G Knight	87
6		0-00	FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 8 (The Two Sawyers) A Moore 10-9	G Moore	75
7			ALBERTA HENRIETTA 424F (N Thackeray) M Castell 10-6	V Slattery (5)	—
8		0

Lock brings considerable intellect to the game

Ackford still has part to play in England's future

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BE they centres, half backs or locks, the best of them come in pairs, just like cricket's opening batsmen or bowlers. Those who remember English rugby of the fifties reminisce fondly about Butterfield and Davies, Jeeps and Risman, Marques and Currie. Differing shapes and sizes, differing abilities, one complementing the other.

Thus it was with Ackford and Dooley and the frustrating element of their partnership in England's second row between 1988 and this month is that it did not exist longer. Paul Ackford, who confirmed on Sunday his decision to retire, won his 22 caps between the ages of 30 and 33, of which 20 were alongside Wade Dooley.

Graham Mourie's 1978 New Zealanders spotted Ackford when he played against them for the South and South-West. He played a B international in 1979 before moving via Metropolitan Police and Rosslyn Park to Harlequins. He was never required to show his best qualities until a leaner competitive structure forced clubs to make greater demands of their personnel.

When he came to international rugby, against Australia in November 1988, he was able to adjust remarkably quickly. In addition he brought to the game a considerable intellect. In no time at all, it seemed, England had found themselves a world-class partnership.

England may now look to a player who made his international debut four years before Ackford: Nigel Redman, of Bath, whose first cap was against the 1984 Australians, but who has never been given the chance to settle to international rugby. It will be to England's advantage if Dooley can be persuaded to remain for one more international season.

Dooley himself, expressing regret at Ackford's decision, has hinted at trying for one more grand slam and Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said yesterday: "I will be very surprised if there is more than one other player making himself unavailable."

Dooley's presence would allow Northampton's Martin Bayfield, who won two caps on tour last summer, to develop in a full season of first-division rugby with the possibility of accompanying the England B party to New Zealand for a further learning experience next summer. That party could well include Martin Johnson, the young Leicester lock. Ackford will provide a potential successor with a direct examination when he plays for the Barbarians against Leicester at Christmas.

Cooke has urged members of England's World Cup squad to ponder at length before deciding on their futures. It may be that the task facing Richard Best, the new coach, of assembling a new pack may not be quite so formidable as it once seemed.



Treasured ground: Tomba, of Italy, shows his appreciation on the slopes of Park City, Utah yesterday after his victory in the slalom

Tomba issues warning of Olympic potential

ALBERTO Tomba served notice that he is preparing for another Olympic campaign by completing a clean sweep of World Cup races in Park City, Utah at the weekend with a victory in the slalom. Just as he had in claiming the giant slalom in the season's opening race on Saturday, Tomba again overtook Paul Accola, of Switzerland, yesterday.

Tomba, who trailed Accola by 0.24sec after the first leg, managed a combined time of 1min 43.38sec for the two runs to edge the Swiss skier by 0.16sec. Tomba's start is reminiscent of the 1987-88 season, when he won the first four races and went on to claim Olympic gold medals in Calgary in the slalom and giant slalom events.

However, Tomba, aged 25, refused to look ahead, either to the Olympics or a possible first World Cup overall title. "All I will say is that it was a better performance to win these first two races than it was in 1987," he said. "Now everyone expects me to win and the level of competition is much better."

Results, page 37

Pontypridd to protest

PONTYPRIDD are to report Newport to the Welsh Rugby Union after the lock forward, Chris Jarman, played for the Gwent club without a permit. Jarman, aged 30, who wants to move to Rodney Parade, appeared for Newport United in Saturday's game against Cross Keys United.

The Pontypridd captain, Steele Lewis, has joined Swansea. The centre severed his link with the club after being suspended following an incident a fortnight ago.

French lessons are in demand

BY PETER BILLS

THE sporting trend set by leading foreign and British footballers of going abroad for experience could be emulated in rugby union. The present trickle, according to the England outside half, Rob Andrew, may develop into a flow when greater European integration becomes reality after 1992.

Two of the world's most renowned outside halves, Michael Lynagh of Australia, and the Englishman, Andrew, will receive tuition in their game this winter. Lynagh is already coming under the influence of the French master coach, Pierre Villepreux, at the Italian club, Treviso, while Andrew joins Stade Toulouse, just before Christmas.



Lynagh: will benefit

Villepreux thinks both players can benefit from exposure to the practices of other countries. He talks of the stimulating new challenge he has encountered at Treviso, and says this beneficial process can be experienced by players even as good Lynagh and Andrew. But how does he expect to improve the Australian?

"Michael is a good rugby player, not just a kicker. But to me, kicking is a plus, and I think he can become a more complete player with the sort of training sessions I can do. The new ideas which we can give him will be different, and could be good for him.

"Michael can improve a lot his reading of a game with particular focus on attacking ideas. For me, he is the best fly half in the world because he has the ability to place his colleagues in good situations. But I believe I can improve his play in that area by showing him many more opportunities."

Villepreux does not seek to decry standards prevailing in Australia. Against the background of the Wallabies' World Cup success, it would be foolish to do so. He acknowledges the Australian flair but believes their organisation comes before spontaneity. "We take decisions during the play," he said.

Coker is back to bridge gap

HARLEQUINS may have lost the services of Paul Ackford but they will welcome back two other internationals, Troy Coker and Mickey Skinner, this weekend (David Hands writes).

Coker, who played in Australia's World Cup-winning team, is eligible to play for the club at once, while Skinner intends to return to action, though not necessarily at first-team level.

Wasps, on the other hand, are counting the cost of their defeat at Leicester on Saturday. Not only does it look as though Alan Simmons may have reached the end of a long and loyal career, Huw Davies and Steve Pilgrim joined him on the casualty list.

Simmons, aged 36, was having an exploratory operation yesterday on damaged medial ligaments in his knee. If the worst comes to the worst, he may conclude that a career which included a B cap in 1987 may be wound down.

Davies, the former England stand-off half, has been advised to rest for eight weeks after cracking his jaw, while Pilgrim has a wrist injury.

Mike Teague, the England No. 8, has yet to confirm his playing future but Keith Richardson, his club coach at Gloucester, is assuming he will be unavailable.

CRICKET

Whitney whips through 'carnival' Indian batting

Lismore, New South Wales — India's tour manager, Abbas Ali Baig, yesterday roundly criticised his team following its innings defeat against New South Wales here.

"The boys will have to pull up their socks if they are to do well in the Tests," Baig said. "We batted as if we were playing in a carnival, and that's just not on."

India were bowled out for 147 in their second innings to lose by an innings and eight runs in their only first-class game before the first of five Tests starts in Brisbane on Friday.

The New South Wales opening bowler, Michael Whitney, celebrating his recall to the Test side, took six wickets for 37, to finish with nine wickets in the match.

"We have to think our way through over the next few days to put up a decent show in the Test match," Baig said. "The team has not had the best of preparations, but I am disappointed at today's show," the manager said before ordering his side to take extra net practice after the match had ended after just two and a half days' play.

Baig hinted that India may field four seamers for the Brisbane Test where the wicket is expected to be fast and bouncy.

"We will have a good look at the wicket first before finalising the playing 11, but the idea of playing four seamers is not ruled out," he said.

The touring side had struggled to 209 in its first innings, while the home side replied with 364 on Sunday. Only Sachin Tendulkar, India's 18-year-old rising star, looked confident against the bowling attack yesterday. Even he survived four chances in making 59, with seven fours and one six.

The makeshift opener, Manoj Prabhakar, with a somewhat lucky innings of 41, was the only other Indian batsman to pass 20.

The Indians, who went into the match without the leading all-rounders, Kapil Dev and Ravi Shastri, reached lunch at 105 for four, but once Whitney had Prabhakar brilliantly caught at first slip by Greg Matthews, the innings collapsed.

The Indians' last four wickets fell for six, the last three for nought, Matthews taking two for 37. The Indian innings lasted just 56.4 overs. *(Reuter/AFP)*

INDIANS: First Innings 209 (S R Tendulkar 82, W J Holdworth 4 for 38).
Second Innings
K Srikanth c McNamara b Whitney 4
M Prabhakar c Matthews b Whitney 41
S V Manjrekar lbw b Holdworth 3
D B Vengsarkar c Matthews b Whitney 6
M Azharuddin c Emery b Lawson 17
S R Tendulkar c McNamara b Matthews 59
S Ganguly c Emery b Whitney 6
†K S More b Matthews 3
J Srinath c S R Waugh b Whitney 5
S Banerjee not out 0
N D Hirwani c Taylor b Whitney 0
Extras (nb 1) 1
Total 147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-7, 3-22, 4-53, 5-111, 6-127, 7-141, 8-147, 9-147.
BOWLING: Whitney 19.4-7-37-6; McNamara 1-1-0-0; Holdsworth 6-2-23-1; Lawson 7-0-23-1; S R Waugh 5-1-20-0; Matthews 14.4-37-2; M E Waugh 3-1-7-0.
NEW SOUTH WALES: First Innings 364 (M G Bevan 115, M E Waugh 79, S M Small 56).

Reiffel gets Test call

Melbourne — Australia's selectors yesterday named the uncapped Victorian fast bowler, Paul Reiffel, in the squad for the first Test against India, which starts on Friday in Brisbane. The selectors also recalled the veteran bowler, Mike Whitney, dropping the all-rounder, Steve Waugh, and another bowler, Terry Alderman, from the team that defeated the West Indies in Antigua last May.

Reiffel, aged 25, has been a consistent wicket-taker for Victoria for the last two seasons. He took ten wickets during the Australia A team pre-season tour of Zimbabwe, and has already taken 13 wickets in three games in domestic competition this season. *(Reuter)*

TEAM (from): A R Border (capt), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M Jones, M E Waugh, I A Healy, P L Taylor, M G Hughes, C J McDermott, P R Reiffel, M R Whitney.

Sponsorship help for game's tender roots

BY MARTIN SEARBY

THE £1 million sponsorship of the preparation of England's cricket teams over the next four years is also proving beneficial to the game at its lowest levels.

A pilot scheme, set up by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), which involved school pupils in three selected areas receiving coaching from first-class players, has met with a very favourable response.

Mike Newell, the Nottinghamshire batsman, approached 26 schools in the Cambridge region and 24 of them enlisted for coaching sessions. Ten had never been involved in cricket previously and eight had no school sporting activities at all.

Gordon Lord, of Worcestershire, coached 26 ten-year-olds in Telford, four of whom had never held a bat and ten of whom had not taken part in any sport.

The sessions Neil Lenham, of Sussex, is organising in Eastbourne next month, are expected to be equally successful.

The idea was put to the TCCB by John Howard, of The Wrekin district council. "We were going to fund the scheme independently," Tony Brown, the board's administration secretary, said, "but Whittingdale's, England's sponsors, said they would like a part of their money, some £20,000, to be used.

"This was only the pilot scheme and we would like to see it expand to cover 50 or so local authorities in future."

Robinson frustrated

PHIL Robinson, the Yorkshire batsman who is seeking a new club after refusing a contract with his native county, is to ask for a meeting with Dennis Silk, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's registration committee (Martin Searby writes).

Robinson, aged 28, and with a career average of almost 38, might reasonably have expected his services to be in demand. But he has fallen foul of a regulation which allows counties, in any five-year period, to sign only two players who have been offered terms by their clubs. It was introduced to prevent players being "tapped up."

Most counties already have one contested registration and do not want to use up the one remaining in case a player of the quality of, for instance, Chris Lewis, comes on to the market.

BASKETBALL

Gill will coach Tigers until end of season

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THAMES Valley Tigers, the only club with a realistic chance of preventing Kingston monopolising the Carlsberg League, have named their new coach. Andy Gill knew of his appointment hours before Tigers gained their third successive win under his temporary care, on Saturday, when Sunderland, humbled 108-61, were the victims at Bracknell.

Gill, a Harlow PE teacher, aged 31, has only been given the job as successor to David Titmuss until the end of the season, but he may only have to keep the momentum going to receive further job security when Tigers review his position. Titmuss, who became general manager for the second time last month, recommended his assistant for the post. "I've seen Andy develop as a coach," he said, "and this says much for the club's attitude that they have gone for continuity and loyalty."

Gill has quickly commanded the respect of the Tigers. Not that Saturday's game was much of a yardstick. The top scorer, David Peed, needed only 23 minutes for his 29 points and Sunderland — who have yet to win in nine attempts — were out of it by half-time, down by 20 points. Gill has a month to prepare Tigers for the probably crucial encounter with Kingston, whose 105-83 win over Worthing came after the champions had trailed for the first 18 minutes.

Russ Saunders finished with 37 points for Kingston, but Ronnie Baker (16) might have matched him for Worthing had he not been forced to sit out a long stretch on four fouls. The officials who penalised the Worthing bench with a technical foul, did not please the visiting player-coach, Dale Shackleford. "Everytime we play Kingston this happens," he said. "Kevin Cadle was up there all game long, shouting. What makes him so special, just because he's England coach. It's very frustrating to players when referees are making one-sided calls."

Derby's attempt to stay in contention floundered at home when they were beaten 90-80 by Leicester, who — without the injured Karl Brown — had gone down surprisingly 85-83 the night before to Hemel Hempstead, for whom Steve Darlow (27) scored with a decisive one-on-one seven seconds from time.

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL

Germans move to shift the balance of power

BY PETER ROBINSON

WORLD champions they may be, but the Germans are nevertheless worried about their football. The domestic game is showing signs of decline and although winning the World Cup is still fresh in the memory, the rest of Europe seems to have forgotten to fear the Germans at club level.

When Bayern Munich were dumped out of the Uefa Cup by the Danish amateurs of BK 1903 Copenhagen earlier this season, the sound of alarm bells went off the Richter scale. The burghers of the Bundesliga have waited until now to act. As the season reached its halfway point, the league's council announced an astonishing series of measures designed to restore Germany to its accustomed role of European football superpower.

From next season, German clubs will be able to sign three overseas players instead of the present quota of two — bringing them in line with the Italian league — and, perhaps more important and useful, there will be no limit on the number of players of European Community origin that a club can play. In the light of 1992, it might seem that the Germans are simply being good Europeans, but the third new rule, that any non-EC player who has been resident in the country for five years will be considered German, points to another motive. Sick of being second-best, the Germans want as many good players as possible playing in their league and bringing continental silverware back to their country.

Perhaps somebody should remind them that Italy, whose international fortunes have suffered of late, are considering reducing their overseas players because of the detrimental effect they have on the national side.

Eintracht Frankfurt will be unconcerned by events off the field. On it, they still lead the Bundesliga by a point after a 2-0 victory over **Hansa Rostock**. In 20 of the last 28 seasons, the "half-time" leaders have won the league.

Club football in Europe has some way to go before it can match the South Americans for controversy. On Sunday, the Rio de Janeiro championship semi-final between **Itaperuna** and **America (Tres Rios)** was abandoned after ten minutes when the referee sent off five America players — Edevaldo, Piao, Edson Luis, Gama and Marcelo — for protesting against a goal by Carlos Gomez. Since America were left with less than the minimum number of players allowed to continue, the referee, Leo Feldman, called a halt. Itaperuna were awarded the match.

OVERSEAS LEAGUE RESULTS AND LEADING POSITIONS

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Belgrano (Cordoba) 0, Quilmes 0; Newell's Old Boys 1, Boca Juniors 1; Deportivo Mandiyu (Camentes) 2, Talleres (Cordoba) 1; Gmanasia Esgnma La Plata 3, Union 1; Racing Club 1, Rosario Central 1. *Leading positions: 1, River Plate, played 11, 21pts; 2, Boca Juniors, 13, 17; 3, Talleres (Cordoba), 12, 15.*

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE: Austria Salzburg 5, Kremser SK 5, Steni Linz 2; First Vienna 1, Swarovski Tirol 2; Vorwärts Steyr 1; St Polten 3, Sturm Graz 1; DSV Alpine 0, Austria Vienna 2; Rapid Vienna 1, Admira Wacker 1. *Leading positions (after 21 matches): 1, Austria Salzburg, 32pts; 2, Austria Vienna, 31; 3, Swarovski Tirol, 27.*

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Cercle Bruges 1, Anderlecht 1; Mechelen 2, Aalst 0; Standard Liège 2, Kortrijk 0; Ghent 1, RSC Antwerp 0; Charleroi 0, Lierse 0; Beveren 2, Lokeren 3; Germinal Ekeren 1, Genk 1; Molenbeek 0, FC Bruges 1. *Leading positions (after 14 matches) 1, Anderlecht, 22pts; 2, FC Bruges, 21; 3, Standard Liège, 21.*

BRAZILIAN LEAGUES: Rio de Janeiro: Second phase: Botafogo (Rio de Janeiro) 2, Goytacaz 0; São Cristovão 3, Campo Grande 2, Itaperuna 1, America (Tres Rios) 0 (abandoned after 10min, result stands), Flamengo 2, Vasco da Gama 0; America (Rio de Janeiro) 2, Americano 0

São Paulo: Semi-finals: Group one: Internacional (São Paulo) 1, Santo Andre 0. Group two: São Paulo 4, Guarani 1, Palmeiras 1, Botafogo (São Paulo) 0.

BULGARIAN LEAGUE: Levski 2, CSKA Sofia 1, Minyor 2, Yantra 0; Chernomorets 1, Hebur 0, Sliven 3, Beroe 2; Dobrudja 3, Pirin 0; Botev 2, Etur 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 0, Slavia 0. Lokomotiv Oryahovitsa 2, Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0. *Leading positions (after 14 matches) 1, CSKA Sofia, 22pts; 2, Levski, 20; 3, Botev, 19.*

CZECHOSLOVAK LEAGUE: Sparta Prague 2, Dukla Prague 1; Slavia Prague 0, Sigma Olomouc 2. TJ Vitkovice 0, Slovan Bratislava 2. Dynamo Ceske Budejovice 0, Spartak Hradec Kralove 0; Inter Bratislava 1, Banik Ostrava 2; DAC Dunajska Streda 3, Tatran Presov 0; Union Cheb 2, Bohemians Prague 4; Spartak Trnava 1, Dukla Banska Bystrica 0. *Leading positions (after 14 matches): 1, Slovan Bratislava, 20pts; 2, Sigma Olomouc, 24, 3, Slavia Prague, 20.*

DUTCH LEAGUE: Willem II Tilburg 0, Roda JC Kerkrade 2; Fortuna Sittard 0, Feyenoord 1; Groningen 2, RKC Waalwijk 0; Den Haag 2, VVV Venlo 2; Sparta Rotterdam 1, Vitesse Arnhem 1; Twente Enschede 0, Ajax Amsterdam 0; Utrecht 3, MVV Maastricht 2; De Graafschap 0, PSV Eindhoven 2. *Leading positions: 1, PSV Eindhoven, played 16, 27pts; 2, Feyenoord, 17, 25, 3, Ajax, 16, 23.*

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 3, Valencia 1; Deportivo La Coruña 2, Albacete 2; Logroñés 1, Burgos 2; Real Madrid 2, Mallorca 0; Sporting Gijon 3, Espanol 0; Sevilla 2, Real Sociedad 2, Athletic Bilbao 0; Real Zaragoza 0, Valladolid 1; Oviedo 1, Cádiz 1, Atlético Madrid 1; Tenerife 0, Osasuna 0. *Leading positions (after 11 matches): 1, Real Madrid, 21pts, 2, Atlético Madrid, 17, 3, Sporting Gijon, 16*

GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Dortmund 2, MSV Duisburg 1; Bayern Munich 1, Karlsruhe 0; Nuremberg 1, Werder Bremen 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Hansa Rostock 0; Hamburg 1, Fortuna Düsseldorf 1, Kaiserslautern 1, Schalke 04 1; VfB Stuttgart 2, Bayer Leverkusen 0; VfL Bochum 2, Stuttgarter Kickers 2; Borussia Mönchengladbach 1, Wattenached 0. *Leading positions (after 19 matches): 1, Eintracht Frankfurt, 25pts; 2, VfB Stuttgart, 24, 3, Borussia Dortmund, 24.*

GREEK LEAGUE: Panshaiki 2, AEK Athens 3; Olympiakos 3, Panionios 1; Apollon 2, Xanthi 0; Panathinaikos 1, OFI Crete 1, Heraklis 1, Aris Thessaloniki 1; PAOK Thessaloniki 3, Doxa Dramas 2; Corinthos 1, Serres 0; Larissa 2, Ethnikos 0, Pierikos 2, Athinaikos 1. *Leading positions (after 10 matches): 1, AEK Athens, 16pts; 2, Olympiakos, 15; 3, Apollon, 15*

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Ascoli 0, Juventus 2; Fiorentina 1, Lazio 1; Foggia 2, Atalanta 3; Genoa 2, Cagliari 2; AC Milan 3, Cremonese 1; Napoli 1, Bari 0; Parma 1, Internazionale 1; AS Roma 2, Sampdoria 0; Torino 0, Verona 0. *Leading positions (after 11 matches): 1, Milan, 19, 2, Juventus, 17, 3, Naples 15*

FRENCH LEAGUE: Monaco 0, Le Havre 2; Caen 1, Sochaux 1; Paris Saint-Germain 1, Lens 0; Metz 4, Nimes 0; Lille 1, Auxerre 0, Lyons 0, Nantes 1; Toulon 1, Toulouse 0, Rennes 0, St Etienne 0, Montpellier 2, Nancy 0; Cannes 1, Marseilles 2. *Leading positions (after 19 matches): 1, Marseilles, 28pts; 2, Monaco, 24; 3, Paris Saint-Germain, 24.*

HUNGARIAN LEAGUE: Vasas Budapest 3, MTK-VM 1, Haladas VSE 3, Rabi Gyori Eto 0; Vac Izzo MTE 3, Tatabanya 0; Zalaegerszeg 0, Vickovlen-Webtheon 2; Kispest-Honved 2 Pecs Munkas 1; Siofok 1, Ferencvaros 1; BVSC Mavtranssped 1, UTE 1; Diosgyor 0, Veszprem 0. *Leading positions: 1, Vac Izzo MTE, 19pts; 2, Kispest-Honved, 19; 3, Siofok, 18.*

SWISS LEAGUE: Servette 1, Neuchâtel Xâmax 1; Grasshopper Zurich 0, Sion 1; Lugano 2, Zurich 2; Lucerne 1, Lausanne 0, St Gallen 2, Aarau 0; Wettingen 0, Young Boys BSC 1. *Leading positions (after 20 matches): 1, Lausanne, 29pts; 2, Grasshopper, 25; 3, Sion, 25.*

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Chaves 1, Penafiel 0; Estoril 2, Guimaraes 0; Famalicão 1, Beira Mar 1; CS Maritimo 0, Boavista 0; Pacos Ferreira 2, Salgueiros 1; Porto 3, Uniao da Madeira 0; Sporting Lisbon 2, Fararense 1; Torreense 0, Gil Vicente 2, Braga 0, Benfica 2. *Leading positions: 1, Benfica, played 12, 18pts; 2, Guimaraes, 12, 18; 3, Porto, 11, 17*

ROMANIAN LEAGUE: Steaua Bucharest 2, Farul Constanta 1; ASA Electromures 0, Dinamo Bucharest 1; Rapid Bucharest 2, Petrotul Ploiesti 0; FCM Brasov 1, Sportul Studentesc 1; Otelul Galati 3, Bacau 0; Universitatea Craiova 1, Politehnica Timisoara 1; Gloria Bistrita 2, Electroputere Craiova 0; Arges Pitesti 1, Inter Sibiu 0; Decic Unirea Braila 1, Corvinul Hunedoara 0. *Leading positions (after 12 matches): 1, Dinamo Bucharest, 22pts; 2, Petrolul Ploiesti, 17; 3, Steaua Bucharest, 16.*

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE: Borac Banja Luka 2, Red Star Belgrade 0; Rad Belgrade 2, OFK Belgrade 1; Sarajevo 4, Buducnost Titograd 1; Sutjeska Niksic 4, Slobode Tuzla 0; Velez Mostar 3, Proleter Zrenjanin 0; Vojvodina Novi Sad 1, Partizan Belgrade 0; Radnicki Nis 1, Vardar Skopje 0; Spartak Subotica 1, Zeljeznicar 0; Partizan Belgrade 3, Zeleznik 1. *Leading positions (after 15 matches): 1, Partizan, 23pts; 2, Red Star, 20; 3, Zeleznik, 17.*

VOLLEYBALL

Lithuania could be invited

BY RODDY MACKENZIE

A WOMEN'S national team from Lithuania may be brought to this country in the new year, at the expense of the English Volleyball Association (EVA), for a series of matches which could involve the top English club sides as well as the England team's first games since winning the British title in April.

The English squad is in a transitional phase and, with a limited budget — the club champions, Britannia Music, have more to spend than the national team — its appearances are likely to be kept to a minimum this season.

If, as seems likely, the British championships will be directed at junior rather than senior teams next year, England's senior international programme is likely to include a meeting with Scotland.

George Bulman, the EVA's national director, stressed yesterday that next year's annual men's international tournament will go ahead "either with one major sponsor or a number of smaller sponsors" at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, from July 17 to 19.